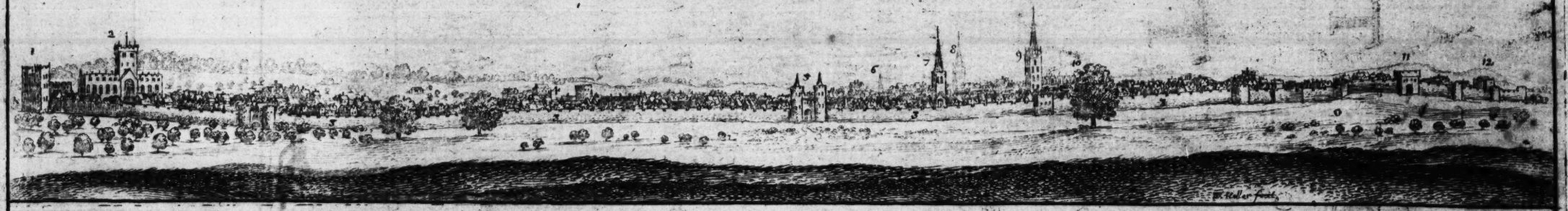
[Vol. 134 f. 135]

The Prospect of COVENTRE from Warwick roade, on the south side of the Cittye

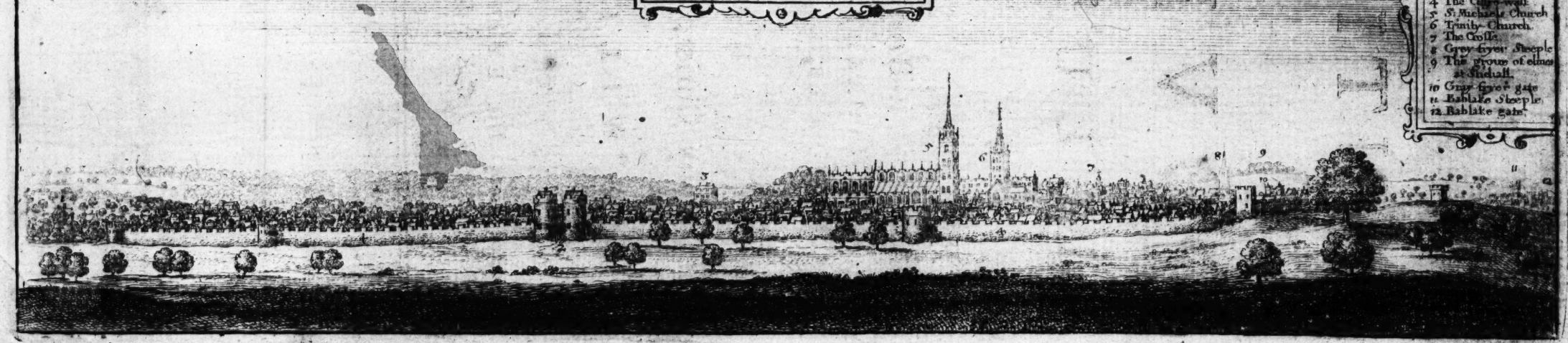
1 Bablake gate
2 Bablake Churche
3 The Citty wall
4 Bishop gate
5 Gray fryer gate
6 The Crosse
7 Gray fryer Steeple
8 Trinity Steeple
9 S. Michaels Steeple
10 S. Mary hall
11 Little parke gate
12 New gate



W. Hollar fecit.

The Prospect of it vpon Leicester roade, on the North side of the City.

1 Gosforde gate
2 Cooke Streete gate
3 New gate
4 The Citty wall
5 S. Michaels Church
6 Trinity Church
7 The Crosse
8 Grey fryer Steeple
9 The grove of elmes at Shelfull
10 Gray fryer gate
11 Bablake Steeple
12 Bablake gate



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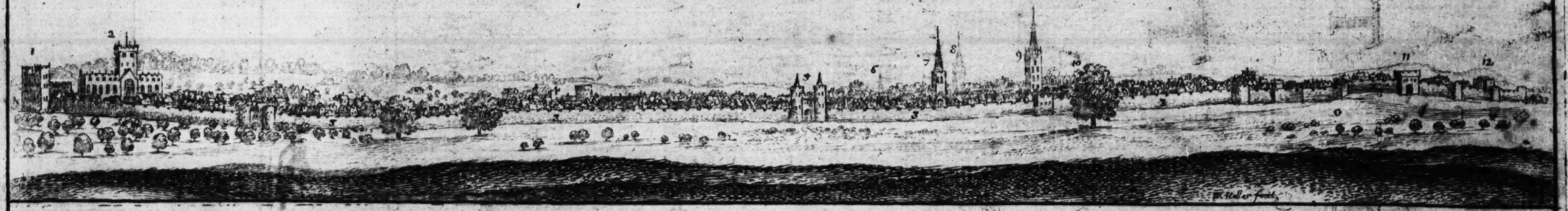

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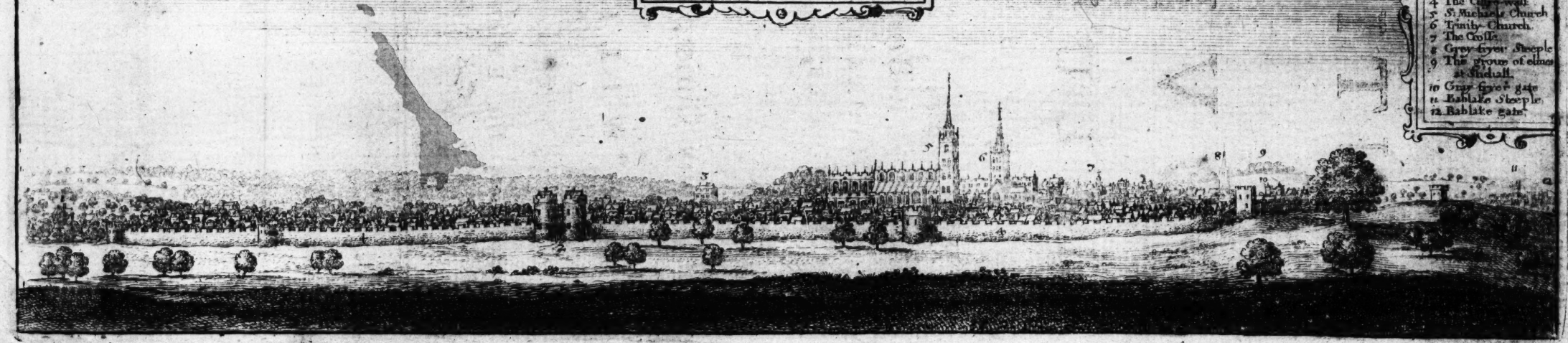


THE

ANTIQUITIES

OF

COVENTRE,

ILLUSTRATED.

FROM

RECORDS,
LEIDGER-BOOKS,
MANUSCRIPTS,
CHARTERS,

EVIDENCES,
TOMBES and
ARMES.

BEAUTIFIED

With many Curious COPPER-PLATE CUTS.

By Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE,

CAREFULLY

Collected from His EDITION of the ANTIQUITIES of *WARWICKSHIRE*, Published in the Year, 1656.

COVENTRY:

Printed by J. JONES, facing the CROSS, M,DCC,LXV.

THE

ANTIQUITIES

ADVERTISEMENT.

AT the first Publication in Numbers of my Edition of Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE'S ANTIQUITIES of *WARWICKSHIRE*, many Persons in *Coventry*, who did not chuse to make so large a Purchase as the whole *History* of *Warwickshire*, and could content themselves with the *Antiquities* and *History* of COVENTRY, made Application to me for the Numbers that related to that CITY only; but which Request I told them it was not in my Power to grant: Therefore to oblige many of my worthy Friends, I came to the Resolution of publishing this, The *History* and *Antiquities* of COVENTRY, which I have carefully collected from the Edition of Sir WILLIAM DUGDALE'S *History* and *Antiquities* of *Warwickshire*, published in the Year, 1656, in Hopes that the same will be well received.

I remain, with the utmost Gratitude to my Friends for all Favours,

Their most obliged, and very humble Servant,

JOHN JONES.

THE ANTIQUITIES OF COVENTRE, ILLUSTRATED.

COVENTRE is ſtill a City of eminent Note, yet much ſhort in Glory and Riches to what heretofore it hath been, as I ſhall ſhew anon: But for the Originall of its Name I can give no poſitive Reaſon; and therefore, whither the firſt Part thereof, *viz.* Coven was occaſioned by ſome Covent of Religious Perſons, antiently founded here, as ſome think; for there was a Monaſtery of Nuns long before the Priory, as I ſhall ſhortly manifeſt; or whither from this little Brook, [*Shirburn*] of which others conceive the true Name to be Cune, I will not ſtand to argue. Sure I am, that the laſt Sillable thereof, *viz.* Tre is Britiſh, and ſignifieth the ſame that *Villa* in Latine doth: From whence I conclude that the firſt Plantation here, hath been of very great Antiquity, though when, or by whom made I cannot expect to diſcover, having ſo little Light of Story to guide me through thoſe elder Times. And as certain is it, that a great Part thereof, and probably the moſt antient, ſtood on the Bank without *Biſhop-gate*, North-Weſtward of the City; for no leſs do the Foundations of much Building there diſcovered, and a Place yet called S. Nicholas Church-yard, teſtify.

But touching that Monaſtery of Nuns, all that I find is no more but this, *viz.* that in the Year of Chriſt 1016. *Canutus* K. of *Denmark*, and that infamous Traytor *Edricus* invading *Mercia* with an Army, burnt and waſted divers Towns in *Warwickſh.* at which Time the ſaid Houſe of Nuns, whereof St. *Oſburg*, a Holy Virgin, had been ſometime Abbeſs, was deſtroyed. What this *Oſburg* was (I mean for her Parentage) or when ſhe lived I have not ſeen: For *John Capgrave*, a learned Man, and diligent Searcher after our Engliſh Saints, makes no Mention of her: I ſhall therefore deſcend to K. *Edw.* the Conf. Time; about the Beginning whereof I find, that the Noble *Leofrick* Earl of *Mercia* founded a goodly Monaſtery for Monks in the Place, where the other ſtood; which Monaſtery was the chief Occaſion of all the ſucceeding Wealth

Wealth and Honour that accrued to *Coventre*, as I shall sufficiently demonstrate, when I come to treat in particular thereof: For of its Beginning, Growth, Riches, Greatness, Honour, and Dissolution, I purpose to speak at large; and therefore referring my Discourse concerning the same, and all other the Religious Houses, Churches, *&c.* here, to their proper Place, I will take Notice of what I find otherwise memorable touching this City. And because this great Earl and his Countess, were the most eminent Benefactors that ever it had, I shall here make a brief Narrative of them, so far at least as they had any Relation to this Place.

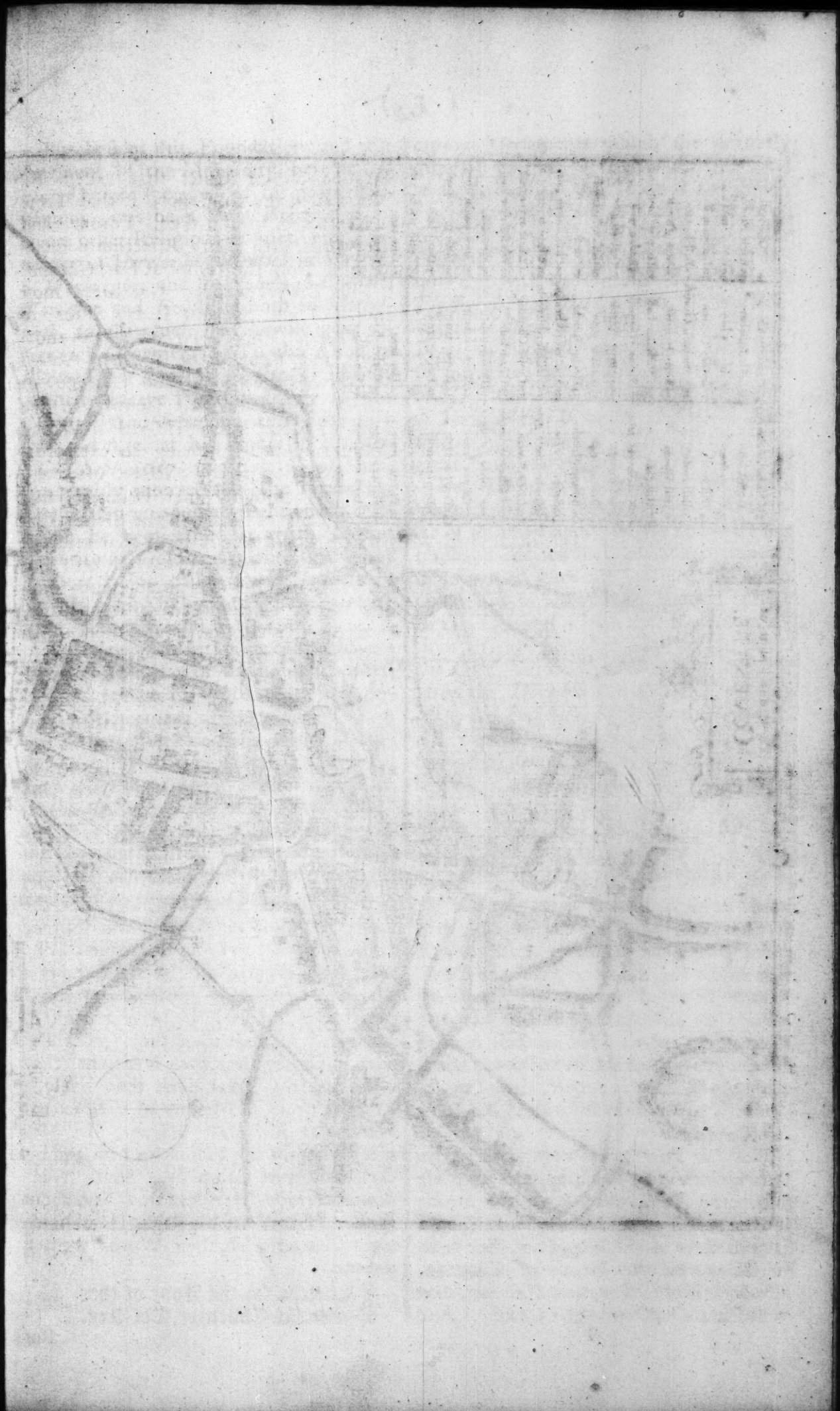
The first of his Progenitors, concerning whom I have any Historicall Authority, was *Leofrik* Earl of *Chester* in the Time of *Ethelbald* K. of *Mercia*, about 900 Years agoe; whose Descendants to to this our *Leofrik*, the Pedegree, which in this Discourse I have inserted, doth succinctly point out. As to the Time of his Advancement unto the Earldom of *Mercia* (which contains the most of the Counties in this Midland Part of the Realm) I can say nothing. In the Days of K. *Ethelred* he was stiled *Leofricus Comes*, at large, which might be of *Chester*, onely by Descent from his Ancestors. By K. *Canutus* he was made Capt. Generall of his Forces, *An.* 1018. and grew afterwards in high Favour with the said K. In the Time of *Hardi Canutus* he was called *Merciorum Comes*: And though that in the Beginning of *Edw.* the Conf. Days he is stiled onely *Comes Herefordiensium*; yet do I conceive that he had that Title attributed to him in such Sort as *Edwyn*, his Granchild, had of *Comes Warwici* (as I shall hereafter shew) those Counties being included within his *Mercian* Territories.

That his Power was very great in the Times wherein he lived, appears by these Instances: First, that after the Death of *Cnut*, and great Debate who should succeed him in the Kingdom, he, with the Barons on the North of Thames, advanced *Harold* sirnamed *Harefoot*, Son to the said *Cnut*, unto the Crown. And next, that *Hardi Canutus* being dead, he was one of the Chief that raised K. *Edw.* called the Confessor, at that Time in *Normandy*, to the regall Throne, and afterwards with intire Affection defended him from the Malice of Earl *Godwyn*.

This *Leofrik* wedded *Godeva*, a most beautifull and devout Lady, Sister to one *Thorold*, Shiriff of *Lincolnsh.* in those Days, and Founder of *Spalding*-Abby: As also of the Stock and Lineage of *Thorold* Shiriff of that County in the Time of *Kenulph* K. of *Mercia*. Which Countess *Godeva*, bearing an extraordinary Affection to this Place, often and earnestly besought her Husband, that for the Love of God and the Blessed Virgin, he would free it from that grievous Servitude whereunto it was Subject: But he, rebuking her for importuning him in a Matter so inconsistent with his Profit, commanded that she should thenceforth forbear to move therein; yet she, out of her Womanish Pertinacy continued to solicit him, insomuch that he told her, if she would ride on Horseback naked from one End of the Town to the other, in the Sight of all the People, he would grant her Request. Whereupon she returned, *But will you give me Leave so to do?* And he replying, *Yes*; the Noble Lady, upon an appointed Day got on Horseback naked, with her Hair loose, so that it covered all her Body but the Legs, and thus performing the Journey return'd with Joy to her Husband: Who thereupon granted to the Inhabitants a Charter of Freedom; which Immunity I rather conceive to have been a kind of Manumission from some such servile Tenure, whereby they then held what they had under this great Earl, than onely a Freedom from all Manner of Toll, except Horses, as *Knighton* affirms: In Memory whereof the Picture of him and his said Lady were set up in a South Window of *Trinity-Church* in this City, about K. *R.* 2. Time, and his Right Hand holding a Charter with these Words written thereon.

I Luriche for the Love of thee
Doe make Coventre Tol-free.

But



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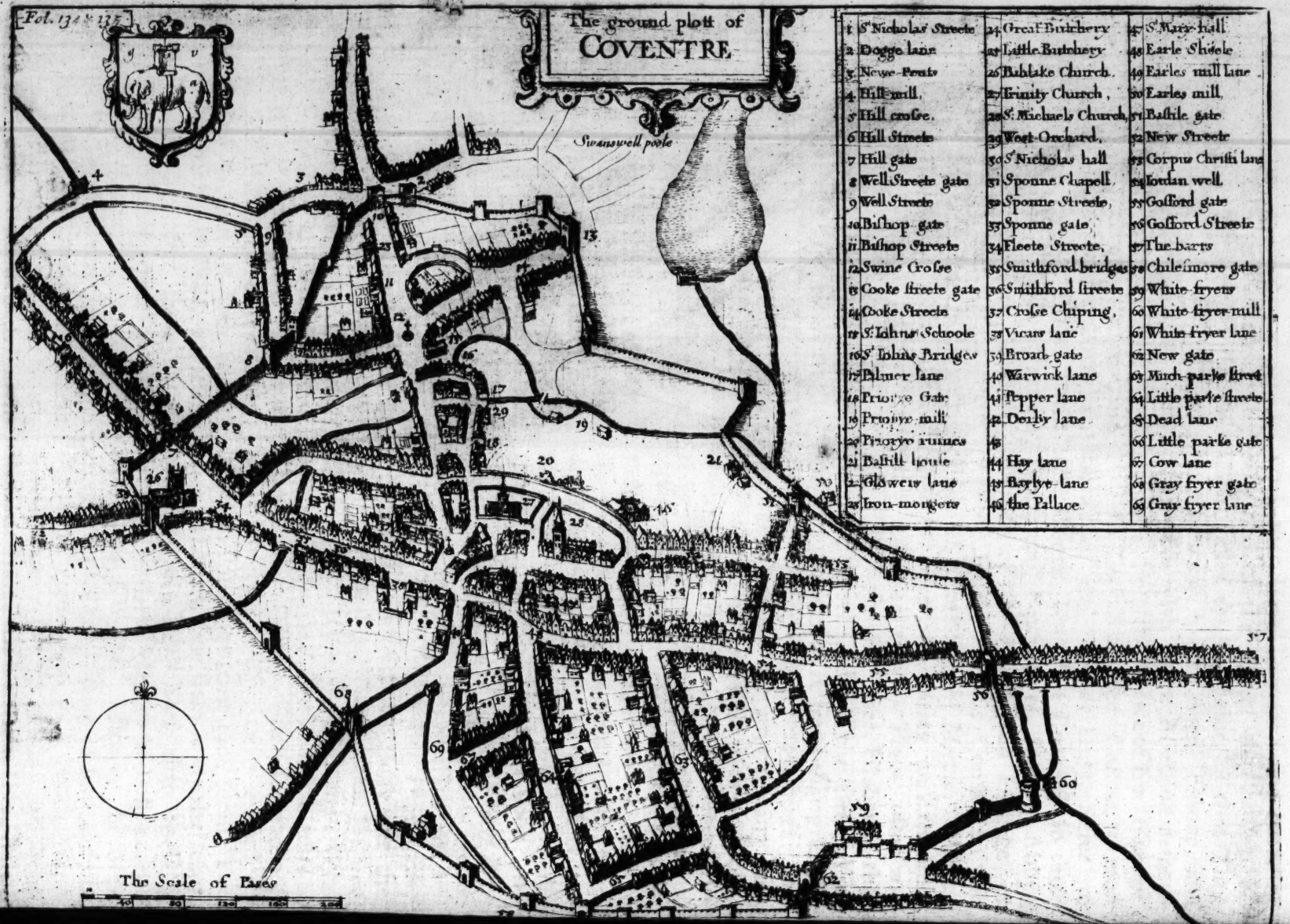
The ground plott of COVENTRE



1	St Nicholas Streete	24	Great Butchery	47	St Mary hall
2	Dogge lane	25	Little Butchery	48	Earle Shiele
3	Newe Gate	26	Bablake Church	49	Earles mill lane
4	Hill mill	27	Trinity Church	50	Earles mill
5	Hill crosse	28	St Michaels Church	51	Bathile gate
6	Hill Streete	29	West Orchard	52	New Streete
7	Hill gate	30	St Nicholas hall	53	Corpus Christi lane
8	Well Streete gate	31	Sponne Chapell	54	Iordan well
9	Well Streete	32	Sponne Streete	55	Gosford gate
10	Bishop gate	33	Sponne gate	56	Gosford Streete
11	Bishop Streete	34	Fleete Streete	57	The barrs
12	Swine Crosse	35	Smithford bridges	58	Chilesmore gate
13	Cooke streete gate	36	Smithford streete	59	White fryers
14	Cooke Streete	37	Crosse Chiping	60	White fryer mill
15	St Iohns Schoole	38	Vicars lane	61	White fryer lane
16	St Iohns Bridge	39	Broad gate	62	New gate
17	Palmer lane	40	Warwick lane	63	Much parke street
18	Priorye Gate	41	Pepper lane	64	Little parke streete
19	Priorye mill	42	Derby lane	65	Dead lane
20	Priorye ruines	43		66	Little parke gate
21	Baskill house	44	Hay lane	67	Cow lane
22	Glovers lane	45	Barbye lane	68	Gray fryer gate
23	Iron mongers	46	the Pallace	69	Gray fryer lane

But besides his Foundation and Endowment of the Monastery, here at *Coventre* before specified, of his proper Patrimony, was he a great Benefactor to divers other Religious-Houses, viz. *Leominster* in *Herefordsh.* *Wenlock* in *Shropsh.* S. *Werburghs*, and St. *John's* in *Chester*; *Worcester* and *Evesham*, both in *Worcestersh.* to all which he likewise gave divers rich Ornaments. To the Abby of *Burton* super *Trent* in *Staffordsh.* he also granted a large Part of *Austrey* in this County: And departing this Life in a good old Age, at his House in *Bromley*, 2 *Cal. Sept.* 1057. (13 *Edw.* Conf.) was honourably interred in the Monastery here at *Coventre* before-mentioned, unto which he bequeathed it, with a great Quantity of Gold and Silver. By some Authors he is called *Comes Leicestriæ*; but 'tis plain, by what I have already cited, that it should be *Cestriæ*.

And now before I proceed, I have a Word more to say of the noble Countess *Godeva*; which is, that besides her devout Advancement of that pious Work of his, in founding this magnificent Monastery (for my Author says it was *instigante uxore sua Godeva*) *omnem thesaurum* (saith another) *eidem Ecclesiæ contulit*, &c. She gave her whole Treasure thereto, and sent for skilfull Goldsmiths; who, with all the Gold and Silver she had, made Crosses, Images of Saints, and other curious Ornaments which she devoutly disposed thereto. Neither did her Zeal to Gods Service and Honour rest here; for, over and above all this, she built the Monastery of *Stow* near *Lincoln*, dedicating it to the Blessed Virgin; and endow'd it with the Lordships of *Newark*, *Flathurgh*, and *Martinewelle*, giving Possession of them by a fair Jewell, and rich Bracelets curiously wrought, as her Charter imports; whereunto were Witnesses K. *Edw.* the Conf. himself, *Aldred* Archb. of *York*, *Wlfwi* B. of *Dorchester*, E. *Leofrik*, her Husband, with divers more great Earls and others.

But I am not certain of the Time when she dyed; neither do the Particular of all the Lands, which the Earl her Husband and she had, any where appear, inasmuch as there are but part of them pointed at in **Domesday-Book**. Those in this County, which that Record mentions to have been held by her in *Edw.* the Conf. Time, were *Coventre*, *Allspath*, *Atherston*, *Hartshill* and *Ansley*, *Kinesbury*, *Ansty* and *Folkshull*, *Salford* and *Bickmersh.* All which, except the two last, were fermed of the Conq. by one *Nicholas*, at the Time of his generall Survey. And of these *Coventre* was certified to contain 5 Hides, there being then a Mill, and Woods extending to two Miles in Length, with asmuch in Breadth, all valued at xi. l.

Leofricus Comes Leiceſtriæ tempore Ethelbaldi Regis Merciorum.

Algarus primus

Algarus ſecundus

Leofricus ſecundus

Leofwinus Comes

Edwinus occiſus per Walenſes. | Normannus occiſus cum Edrico Streona. | Leofricus Comes Mercio rum, fundator Abbatiæ Coventre, obiit an. 13. Conf. | -Goditha, ſoror de Thoroldivice-E. Comitis Linc. | ....-Ermenilda

Algarus Comes Merciorum, obiit 1059. | Hereward = Turfrida | Turfrida = Rich de Rulos | .....-Matilda | Hugo Comes Ceſtriæ temp. temp. W. Conq.

Algitha, 1. nupta Guitfrido Regi Wall. 2. Haraldo, (fil. Godwini Comitis) Regi Angl. | Edwinus C. Merc. occiſus ſuorum inſidiis 5. W. C. | Morkerus Co. Northumb. ob. in carcere 2 W. Ruſi. | Lucia, 1. nupta. yvoni Talboys Comiti Andeg. 2 Rog. fil. Geroldi cogn. Romara. | Ranulphus cogn. de Bricalard, conſobr. Ri. Co. Ceſt. poſt cujus mortem Comitat. Ceſtr. adeptus eſt. | Ricardus Co. Ceſtr. obiit ſ. p. | Otwellus periit naufragio, cum fratre. | Robertus Abbas S. Edm. | Geva. uxor Galf. Ridel

Gulielmus de Rolmara Comes Linc. temp. H. 1. | Ranulphus, dictus de Gernoniis, Comes Ceſtriæ.

Hugo, cognom. de Kevilioc, Co. Ceſtriæ. | Ricardus, ſepultus in Prioratu de Coventre.

Ranulphus cogn. Blundevile, Co. Ceſtriæ; obiit. ſ. p. | Matilda, ux. Comitis Anguſ. & Huntend. | Davidis Comitis Gallovidiæ, cujus pars fuit totus Comitatus Ceſtriæ. | Mabilia ux. de Albineio Comitis Arundeliæ | Will. Co. Ferrariis, Comitis Derbiæ. | Agnes ux. Will. de Hawiſia uxor filii Sacri Comitis | Rob. de Quincy, Comitis Winton.

Ada ux. Henr. de Haſtings | Iſabella ux. Rob. de Brus | Matilda ob. ſ. p. | Margar. ux. Alani de Galloway | Ioh. Co. Ceſtr. dedit propartem ſuam Regi H. 3. & ob. ſ. p. | cogn. Scot, qui | Will. Co. Arund. ob. ſ. p. | Hugo Co. Arund. ob. ſ. p. | Mabilia ux. Rob. de Tatſhall. | Iſab. uxor Ioh. fil. Alani. | Nichola ux. Rog. de Somery. | Cecilia ux. R de Mont gle

Henr. de Haſtings | Rob. de Brus Rex Scotiæ | Dervogil ux. Ioh. de Baliolo. | Chriſtiana uxor Will. de Fortibus Comitis Albamarliæ 25. H. 3.

To the before ſpecified *Leofrik* ſucceeded his Son *Algar*; but leaving his Story to another Work, as not ſo proper for this Place, all that I ſhall further ſay of him is, that he was not onely E. of *Cheſter*, after his Fathers Death, but likewiſe

wife of *Mercia*; and that departing this Life in *An.* 1059. he had Sepulture in the Monaſtery here at *Coventre*. Nor of his Iſſue will it be pertinent, for me to to ſay more, than that *Lucia*, (at the Length ſole Heir to her Father and Grandfather) had to her Third Huſband, *Ranulph* the third E. of *Cheſter* of that Name, who, by *Maud* his Mother, being alſo nearly allyed to the famous E. *Leofrik*, and this Marriage (as the Deſcent ſheweth) had Title fair enough to the Lands and Honour of her Grandfather, Father, and Brothers, had not the Conq. Sword diſpoſed thereof otherwiſe. But it ſeems, that though the ſame *Ranulph* was the next Heir in Blood likewiſe to *Hugh* (commonly called *Lupus*) E. of *Cheſter*, after the Deceaſe of Earl *Richard* without Iſſue, yet did he not obtain the Poſſeſſion of that Earldom (whereof this City was afterwards reputed Part) but by Purchaſe from King *H.* 1. *viz.* giving up all the Inheritance of her the ſaid *Lucia*; and not onely ſo, but a round Summe of Money, which was not all payd of a good while after: For I find that in 5. *Steph. Ranulph.* Earl of *Cheſter*, his Son, was certified to be indebted to the King a Thouſand Pounds *de debito patris ſui, pro terra Hugonis Comitis*, as the Record expreſſeth.

Having thus ſtated the Succeſſion of this Earldom from the noble *Leofrik*, I ſhall paſs by the Story of thoſe Earls, and onely take Notice of what relates to them as touching this Place, where they had an eminent Seat, bearing the Name of a Caſtle in thoſe elder Times. Wherein I find, that *Ranulph* the firſt, before ſpecified, cauſed the Chappells of *Alleſley*, *Anſty*, *Shulton*, & *Wykin* (all Hamlets then within the Precincts of *Coventre*) to be built. And that *Ranulph* his Son, (commonly called *Gernons*), who was a Man of great Action in that turbulent Time of King *Stephens* Reign, taking Part with *Maud* the Empreſs, and her Son *Henry* Duke of *Normandy* (afterwards K. by the Name of *H.* 2.) to whom he was by Affinity near allyed (having wedded *Maud* Daughter of *Rob. Conſul*, E. of *Glouc.* one of the baſe Sons to K. *H.* 1. Brother by the Fathers Side to the ſaid Empreſs) being repuls't at *Lincoln*, haſted to his Caſtle here at *Coventre*; of which finding the K. Forces poſſeſt, he preſently rays'd a ſtrong Fort to beſiege them; whereof the K. being advertiſed, he made all the Speed he could to relieve it: But in that Attempt many of his Men were ſlain, and himſelf wounded, yet after a while having gotten more Strength, and advenuturing again, he routed the Earl, who eſcap't not without divers Wounds.

Some great Injury had this Earl done, it ſeems, to *Walter Durdent* B. of *Cheſter*; for which he dyed Excommunicate: For it appears, that E. *Hugh*, his Son, with *Maud* his Counteſs, gave the Village of *Stivichale*, adjoyning to *Coventre*, with a Mill next to the Park; and ſome other Grounds thereabouts to the ſaid B. and his Succeſſors, for his Abſolution and the Health of his Soul in Recompence of that Damage. Which *Hugh*, being one of thoſe that roſe in Rebellion againſt K. *H.* 2. in 18. of his Reign, on the Part of young *Henry*, ſo animated his Tenants here at *Coventre*, that they took up Arms on his Behalf; for which they were put to Fine in 21. *H.* 2. But, that he was a munificent Friend to the Monks of this Place, what I have ſaid in my Story of the Priory will manifeſt. It ſeems, that the *Coventre*-Men, for their diſloyall Actions before pointed at, had their Libertyes ſeiſed on by the K. which were not fully reſtored to them till after the Death of the ſaid *Hugh*: For I find that in the 28. *H.* 2. they gave xx. Marks for the K. Confirmation of them.

To which Earl ſucceeded *Ranulph*, the laſt of that Name; whoſe Reſpects were ſo much to this Place, that he confirmed to his Burgeſſes here (for ſo in his Charter he ſtiles them) that they ſhould well and quietly hold all their Poſſeſſions in free Burgage as they did in his Father's Time, or any of his Anceſtors. Granting likewiſe to them all ſuch Freedoms as the Burgeſſes of *Lincoln* enjoy'd; and pro-

prohibiting all his Constables and Officers from impleading them at the Court of his Castle; but that they should have a **Portmote**, (*id est* a Town-Court) of their own, in which they might freely hold Plea of all Things to him the said Earl or themselves belonging: And choose some one Man among themselves well skill'd in the Laws and Customes, who in his Stead should be Judge over them, and dealing impartially might do him equal Right. And if any one should happen to fall into the said Earls Mercy, that he should be amerc't by his Bayliff and Burgesses of the Court. And whatsoever Merchants they should bring thither for the Advantage of the Town, that they might reside peaceably there without being injur'd or unjustly impleaded. And if any Forrein Merchant should deal unfittingly, he to make Satisfaction for it in the **Portmote**, in the Presence of the Judge. To which Charter were Witnesses *Roger*, Constable of *Chester*, *Rob. de Mohaut*, Steward, *Raph de Meisnilwarin*, and divers others.

Hereunto also did K. *H.* 2. add his Confirmation; in which are these Particulars by Way of Enlargement, viz. that if any of them should happen to make a Forfeit to the Earl, he should be acquit thereof for xii. *d.* And if by the Testimony of his Neighbours he were not able to pay so much, they to qualify the Sum to the Measure of his Ability: As also that the said Burgesses should not be lyable to lend unto the said Earl, or those that belong to him any Rent, or Annuall Payment, but upon Condition that their Cattell might be in Safety. And lastly, whosoever should come to inhabit there, that from the Day of his Beginning to build, for two Years following, to be free from all Payments whatsoever.

And in 2. *H.* 3. did this Earl procure a Charter from the K. for an yearly **Faire** here, to begin on the Feast-Day of the *Holy Trinity*, and to continue for 8. Days.

But dying without Issue, he left his 4. Sisters or their Children his Heirs, (as the Pedegree sheweth) whereof *Mabel*, the 2. marryed to *Will. de Albany* E. of *Arundell*; who being dead before the E. her Brother, and so likewise *Will.* E. of *Arundell* her eldest Son; *Hugh de Albany* her second Son (then Earl) came to share in that great Inheritance; unto whom this Town of *Coventre* was in Partition assigned for his Capitall Seat. And of Kts. Fees, in this County, these; viz. *Henry de Hastings* 2. *Will. de Hardreshull* 1. In *Kingsbury* 1. in *Eccleshale* Half one; in *Ansty* as much; in *Allespath* the 4. Part; in *Wykin* the 8. Part; and in *Pillerton* the 4. Part: But the Names of those that then held them I forbear here to mention, having specified them in the particular Places.

Which *Hugh* lived not above x. Years after: For on the Nones of May, 1243. (27. *H.* 3) he departed this Life, *Cum jam vix metas adolescentiæ pertransisset* saith *M. Paris*, and was buryed in the Priory of *Wymundham* in *Norff.* of his Ancestors Foundation; leaving a great Inheritance to his 4. Sisters, or their Descendants: Of which *Mabel* the eldest, marryed to *Rob. de Tatshall*, *Isabell* to *John Fitz-Alan*, *Nichola* to *Rog. Somery*, and *Cecily* to *Rog. Montalt*: So that in the next Year following, viz. 28. *H.* 3. Partition being made of the Possessions so descended to them, the same *Cecily* had the Castle and Mannour of *Rising* in *Norff.* with our *Coventre*, and many other great Lordships for her Part.

Which *Rog. de Montalt* was one of the Earl of *Chester*'s Barons and Seneschall of *Chester*; and in 30. *H* 3. had a Charter of **Free-Warren** granted to him in all his Demesn Lands, dat. 26. *Martii.* But in 33. *H.* 3. I find, that *Geff. de Langley* (of whom I shall speak in *Pinley*) had a great Suite with him for diverting the Stream of the River in *Coventre* out of its antient Course. In 34. *H.* 3. intending a Voyage to the Holy-Land, and wanting Money for his Support therein, he was furnish't with a very large Summe by the Monks of *Coventre*. In Consideration whereof he, with the before specified *Cecily* his Wife,

of

of whoſe Inheritance this fair Lordſhip was, joyn'd together in the Sale of it; as alſo of the Advouſon of St. *Mich.* Church, and all the Chappells thereto belonging unto the ſaid Monks in Fee-Ferme. In which Sale were excepted to them and their Heirs, their Mannour-Houſe at **Cheyleſmore**, with the Park incloſed, and the Religious-Houſe of *Friers-Minors*, ſituate neer the ſaid Park; with free Liberty alſo to the ſaid *Roger* and his Heirs, whenſoever they ſhould come in Perſon to *Coventre*, for Hunting and Hauking, within the Precincts of the ſaid Mannour.

And likewiſe excepting the Homage and Services of *Gilbert de Segrave* in *Caloudon*, *Will. de Olney* in *Aſthull*, *Vitalis de Folkeſhull* in *Folkeſhull*, *Walter D'eyvill* in *Whitley*, *Stoke*, and *Coventre*, *Rob. de Stoke* in *Stoke*, *Miles Gerbold* in *Whitley*, and *Hugh de Loges* in *Sow*, and their Heirs; with all Releifs, Eſchaets, and other Duties in Reſpect of thoſe Lands. And alſo excepting the Homage and Services of *Hugh Deſpencer* in *Lughtbrough*, *Raph Bracebrigge* in *Kynneſbury*, *Will. le Ruteler* in *Eccleſhall*, and *Folkeſhull*, and their Heirs, *Rob. Tuſhet* in *Kereſley*, and of *Wido fil. Roberti*; *James de Audely* in *Folkeſhull*, and *Eccleſhale*, *Walter de Langley* in *Wykin*, *Tho. le Ireys* in *Anſty*, *Tho. de Nevill* and *Walter de Coventre* in *Stoke*; *Gilb. de Preſton*, *John le Pover*, and *Alexander D'eyvill* in *Tackley*, and their Heirs; with all Reliefs, Eſchaets, &c. to the ſame Lands belonging: And all Military Services, Reliefs, &c. whereſoever, within the Realm of *England* belonging to the ſaid Mannour of *Coventre*.

And excepting to all his Freeholders ſuch Liberty as they had heretofore uſed to enjoy, either in the Woods or Mannour of *Coventre*, ſo that they ſhould not be diſturbed by the ſaid Prior and Covent, or their Succeſſors. Excepting likewiſe the Hoſpitall of *Sponne* for Lepers; as alſo that the ſaid *Rog.* and *Cecily* and their Heirs whenſoever they ſhould come and reſide there, might have ſufficient Wood for Fewell, and to make into Charcoale for their own Uſe, without Waſt, and for Pales to repair the incloſed Park, as often as need ſhould require, by the Overſight and Delivery of the Foreſters belonging to the ſaid Prior and Covent. And that the Friers of *St. John's* Hoſpitall in *Coventre*, ſhould have in the Woods before-mentioned one Cart-Load every Week by Overſight of the ſaid Foreſters. Other Reſervations there are, but theſe which I have mentioned are the moſt memorable.

In Conſideration of all which the ſaid Prior and Covent were to pay yearly unto the ſame *Rog.* and *Cecily* and their Heires, at the Mannour-Houſe of *Cheyleſmore* before mentioned, c.li. Sterling; viz. on the *Octaves* of St. *Andrew*, the *Octaves* of S. *Mary*, in March, the *Octaves* of S. *John* B. and the *Octaves* of S. *Michael*; and x. Marks Annually for the Nuns of *Poleſworth*, at Eaſter and Michaelmaſs by even Portions, under the Penalty of x.li. and a Clauſe for Diſtreſs.

And beſides a Fine levyed in the ſame 34. Year of *H.* 3. by the ſaid *Roger* and *Cecily* for Warranty of the Premiſſes, ſo granted, did the ſaid *Cecily* in her Widowhood, by her Deed of Releaſe quit all her Intereſt in the ſaid Mannour, according to the Tenor of the before ſpecified Grant: As alſo in the Hoſpitall and Chappell of *Sponne* (ſometime perteining to the Abby of *Baſingwerk* in *Flintſh.* as her ſaid Releaſe imports).

The next Thing which falls out in Order of Time to be taken Notice of, in Relation to this Place, is, that here it was that thoſe Perſons elected for the Determination upon what Terms ſuch as were diſherited for their Activeneſs in that notable Rebellion againſt K. *H.* 3. ſhould redeem their Lands, met, and reſolv'd thereupon. Which Decree of theirs, is notwithſtanding, called *Dictum de Kenilworth*, in regard it was then publiſh't in the K. Camp, at that famous Six Months Siege of the Caſtle (as in *Kenilworth* I have already intimated).

After this, viz. in 3. *E.* 1. upon the Extent of this Mannour after the Death of *Rob de Montalt*, Son to the before-mentioned *Roger*, the Mannour-Houſe called

called *Cheyleſmore*, with the Park and Mill in the Park, were valued at 5. Marks *per Annum*; the Rent of Aſſiſe belonging thereto 39 li. 09. s. 07. d. and the Perquiſits of Court 6. s. 8 d. And in 13. *E.* 1. had the Burgeſſes and Inhabitants here, the K. Letters Pat. bearing Date 3. *Aug.* giving them Authority to take Toll of all vendible Commodities, that ſhould be brought hither for the Space of 3. Years, from Michaelmas next enſuing, towards their Charge of Paying the Town, viz. for every Horſ-Load of Corn, a Half-peny; for every Horſe, Mare, Oxe, or Cow, a Half-peny; and likewiſe upon every Thing els, which for Brevities Sake I omit. But it ſeems, that xx. Years afterwards this Work of Paving was not fully done: For in 23. of the ſame K. Reign they had another Pat. to take Toll upon the like Commodities, and granted *Ballivis & probis hominibus de* Coventre; whereas the other was *Burgenſibus & probis hominibus*; which ſhews that the Originall of their Bayliffs, was betwixt the 13. and 33. *E.* 1. though the very Time, when they were conſtituted, be not recorded.

After which, viz. in 9. *E.* 2. the Prior of *Coventre* and *Rob. de Montalt* were certified to be Lords of this Place, with its Members: Which *Rob.* (being Brother and Heir to *Roger*, Son to the laſt mentioned *Robert*) with *Emme* his Wife, in 1. *E.* 3. levyed a Fine of all their Intereſt here, by the Name of the Mannour of Cheyleſmore with the Appurtenances, 96. li. 6. s. 8. d. yearly Rent, and the Services of the Prior of *Coventre*; thereby entayling the ſame upon the Heirs Male of his Body, and for want of ſuch Iſſue on *Iſabell* Q. of *England* (Mother to K. *E.* 3.) during her Life; and after her Deceaſe on *John* of *Eltham*, Brother to the ſaid King, and the Heirs of his Body, and for Lack of ſuch Iſſue on the ſaid K. *Edward* and his Heirs for ever: For ſetling whereof as aboveſaid, he had the Kings Licenſe, dated at *Peterborough* 8. *April*.

Hitherto have I taken Notice of the moſt remarkable Paſſages touching *Coventre* in generall: But now that I am come to the veſting of *Cheyleſmore* in the Royall Line, it will be moſt proper (I conceive) to obſerve what els is notable in Relation thereto, in Order of Time; reſerving what I have further to ſay of *Coventre* in generall to be afterwards ſpoke by itſelf. Firſt then, that the Situation of this Mannour is upon the Southern Side of the Town, the Map, to thoſe that know not the Place will demonſtrate: But as to the Antiquity of its Name can I ſay little, having not met with any Mention thereof till 34. *H.* 3. that *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife do, in their Grant of *Coventre* to the Monks, except it by the Name of their Manſion, or Mannour-Houſe of *Cheyleſmore*: Yet, that the Seat, which the E. of *Cheſter* had in that very Place was much elder, is not to be doubted; in regard 'tis apparent, that their Caſtle (concerning the Siege whereof in K. *Steph.* Time by E. *Ran.* the ſecond, I have already ſpoke) ſtood there. For in that ample Charter made by *Hugh Keviliok* E. of *Cheſter* to the Monks of *Coventre*, in *H.* 2. Time, in pointing out the Boundaryes, dividing the Earls Part and the Priors aſunder; he traces the ſame from S. *Mich.* Church-Yard, and ſo, *juxta latam portam mei Caſtelli*, are his Words. Now, that this Gate he means was not far off *Cheyleſmore*, the Place where it ſtood doth ſufficiently teſtify; being at the End of that Paſſage now called Grey-Frier-Lane, entering into the great *High-Street*, and retayning the ſaid Name of Broad-Gate to this Day. From which Teſtimony may alſo be obſerved, that the Circuit of the outer Ward to that Caſtle was of a large Extent, conſidering that it did reach ſo far North towards the Town.

Having ſaid thus much as to its Situation, and Antiquity, I ſhall proceed with the Succeſſion thereof; wherein I obſerve, that K. *E.* 3. having in the Parl. begun at *Weſtm.* on the Munday next after the Feaſt of S. *Matthew* the Apoſtle in xi. Year of his Reign, advanced *Edward* his eldeſt Son (commonly called the *Black Prince*) unto the Dukedom of *Cornwall*, did

did *(inter alia)* for his better Support of that Honour, by his Charter bearing Date 1 Oct. the ſame Year, ſettle upon him the Reverſion of this Mannour, after the Deceaſe of Q. *Iſabel* before ſpecified, (*John* of *Eltham* E. of *Cornwall*, Tenant in Remainder, being then dead without Iſſue) to hold to him the ſaid D. and to the eldeſt Sons of him and his Heirs, Kings of *England*, Dukes of that Place ſucceſſively, and not to be ſevered from the ſaid Dukedom; upon the Death, or not Exiſtency of ſuch Dukes, to revert unto the Crown together therewith. Whereunto the ſaid Q. *Iſabel*, by her Letters Pat. dated 10. *Dec.* in the ſame Year, did ſignify her Aſſent; and in regard of her Eſtate therein, made Attourment.

After which, were there divers great Priviledges granted to this Place, viz. in 18. *E.* 3. that the Tenants to the ſaid Q. ſhould, during her Life, be free from *Pavage*, *Paſſage*, *Paage*, *Leſtage*, *Stallage*, *Tallage*, *Carriage*, *Peſage*, *Pikage*, and *Terage*, throughout all the Kings Dominions: And that ſhe ſhould, within the Precincts thereof have Return of Writts, as alſo Felons Goods, Fines for Treſpaſſes, and for Licences of Concord; Amerciaments, Redemptions, Iſſues forfeited, Year, Day and Waſt, with divers other. And the next Year following did the ſame K. further grant to the before ſpecified Q. during her Life, and to the ſaid Prince, in Reverſion, and his Heirs, a **Court-Leet** within this Mannour, with Power to hold Pleas of all ſuch Things as uſually were determined before the Juſtices of Aſſiſe for the County of *Warwick:* And likewiſe to have Return of Writts, Goods of Felons and Fugitives, within the Precincts thereof; with a Gaol for the ſafe Cuſtody of Felons or other Tranſgreſſors.

And in 21. *E.* 3. had one *Will. le Galeys* Licenſe to found a *Chantry* here, conſiſting of three Prieſts; whereof one to be the Warden; and to build a Chappell there in Honour of the Bleſſed Virgin, with a convenient Manſion for them: As alſo to amortize thereunto five Meſſ. lying in *Coventre*. Which Prieſts were to celebrate Divine Service daily for the good Eſtate of the ſaid K. *E.* 3. Q. *Iſabell*, his Mother, *Edw.* Prince of *Wales*, and of the ſaid *Will. le Galeys* during their Lives; and for the Health of their Souls afterwards; as alſo for the Souls of *Edward* late King of *England* (the K. Father) and of *John* late E. of *Cornwall* (his Brother) and all the faithfull deceaſed. After which, viz. in 50. *E.* 3. I find, that the ſaid Prince gave 23. Meſs. 6. Cottages, and 2. Gardens lying here in *Coventre*, which were Parcell of this his Mannour of *Cheyleſmore*, unto the Abby of *Vale-Royall* in *Cheſhire*, of *Ciſterc.* Monks, founded by the K. his Father in 11. of his Reign. And the ſame Year did he dye ſeized of this Mannour, leaving *Ric.* his Son and Heir 9. Years of Age and a Half (afterwards King, by the Name of *R.* 2.) in whoſe Days the Park here was not without Deer, it ſeems; for in 8. of his Reign, granting to one *Tho. de Quinton*, the Keeperſhip of its Paſturage for 6. Years, paying c *s. per Annum* to his Exchequer, he reſerv'd ſufficient Graſſe for them.

In which 8. Year, the Walls on the South Part of this City being not built, the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty thereof humbly beſought the K. to give them Leave that they might go forward with that Work (concerning which I ſhall ſpeak more fully anon) who thereupon granted Licenſe to them ſo to do; on Condition that they ſhould include within their Walls his ſaid Mannour-Place, ſtanding within the Park of *Cheyleſmore*, as the Record expreſſeth: Which Park was a woody Ground in thoſe Times: For, in 11. *R.* 3. the K. aſſign'd *Ric. Clerk*, then Keeper thereof, to cauſe as much Underwood there to be cut down as would make 3000 Fagots, and with the Money ariſing by the Sale of them to repair the Pales. And in 9. *H* 5. *Rob. Caſtell*, the K. Steward of this Mannour, was appointed to cauſe 12 Oaks within it, to be fallen for Repair of the Houſe as alſo more Underwood to the Value of 40 l. for defray of ſuch Charge as he ſhould be at therein. After this, viz. in

16. *H.* 8. I find, that the K. made a Leaſe for 21. Years of this his Mannour, with the Herbage of the Park and Conyes there, to *Geffrey Whalley*, Prior of *Ulveſcroft* in *Leiceſterſhire*, for 21 Years, for the Rent of 13. li.-09. s. 05. d. ob.

And in 3. *E.* 6. did that K. by his Letters Pat. bearing Date 19. *Julii*, grant it with the ſaid Park unto *John* E. of *Warwick* and his Heirs, as being Part of the Poſſeſſions annexed to the Dutchy of *Cornwall* (by Charter and not in Parliament) to hold *in Capite*. Which *John*, on the 12. of *Aug.* following, made a Leaſe of the Premiſſes unto the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, of this City, for the Terme of 99. Years, to the Uſes and Intents following; viz. That they and their Succeſſors for the Relief of the Poor of the ſaid City, ſhould yearly take to Paſture in the ſaid Park, the Number of 80. Kyne or Heyfers, and 20. Geldings, of ſuch poor Inhabitants of the ſaid City and Suburbs, as ſhould not have elſwhere, nigh thereto, ſufficient Paſture; paying yearly for every Cow, or Heyfer 1. *d.* and for every Gelding 2. *d.* But after his Attainder, which hapned in 1. *Mariæ* (as in *Warwick* I have ſhew'd, the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs and Commonalty, by the Mediation of *Rob.* E. of *Leic.* (Son to the ſaid *John*) obteyned a Grant thereof from Q. *Eliz.* to hold to them and their Succeſſors for ever, in Fee Ferme (the Rent reſerved being ix. li. *per Annum*) whereupon they covenanted with the ſaid Earl to obſerve and perform the Truſts before ſpecified, for the Behalf of the poor Inhabitants, as by an Indenture dated 4. *Apr.* 10. *Eliz.* appeareth.

HAVING now finiſhed my Diſcourſe of *Cheyleſmore*, I return to *Coventre* itſelf; of which the laſt obſervable Matter that I took Notice was, touching the Paving thereof in 33. *E.* 1. To the End therefore that it may appear by what Degrees it aſcended to that Beauty and Strength in the Walls and other Buildings of Note; as alſo to thoſe Priviledges which it now enjoyeth, I ſhall in Order of Time proceed to declare.

In 2. *E.* 3. the Monks of *Coventre*, with the Inhabitants thereof, obteyn'd a Pat. for taking Toll of all vendible Commodityes that ſhould be brought thither to ſell for ſix Years, towards their Charges of incloſing the ſame. And at the Requeſt of *John* of *Eltham* E. of *Cornwall* (who had an Eſtate in Reverſion in the Mannour of *Cheyleſmore*, as I have there declared) for two Years more after the End of thoſe ſix; upon Condition that the ſaid Earl ſhall not be charged towards building of the Gates: Which Pat. bears Date at *Leiceſter* 6. *Jan.* the ſame Year: The particular Proportions of Toll little differing from thoſe, which were aſſeſſed upon every Thing for Pavage, as is before intimated. After this, in the 6. Year of the ſaid K. the Inhabitants of this Town had Licenſe to erect a common **Conduit**, of xx. Foot long and x. Foot broad, in any of the Streets thereof, that they ſhould think fitteſt for their Conveniency and Benefit. And, within 2. Years following, for their better Encouragement in proſecuting their Affairs, obteyn'd a Grant to them, their Heirs and Succeſſors, of Freedom from *Toll*, *Pavage*, *Pontage*, and *Murage*, for all their Merchandize throughout the K. Dominions: In Conſideration whereof he received a Fine of Ten Marks from them. But it had not then the Reputation of a City, or a Borough; and the Record gives this Reaſon: *Eo quod in Quintisdecimis Regi Conceſſis non contribuit ultra ſummam c. marcarum.*

In this K. Reign it was, that *Coventre* grew up to a very flouriſhing Condition, as by what I have ſaid, and ſhall further ſhew, appeareth: For in 18. *E.* 3. at the Inſtance of Q. *Iſabel* (who had an Eſtate in *Cheyleſmore* for Life) as alſo in Conſideration that the Reverſion thereof was veſted in *Edw.* then Prince of *Wales*, D. of *Cornwall*, and *E.* of *Cheſter*, the K. by his Letters Pat. bearing Date 20. *Jan.* did make it a Corporation, conſiſting of a Mayor and Bayliffs, which the Inhabitants ſhould have Power to chooſe and make out of themſelves Yearly: Who, taking their Oath according to the accuſtomed Manner in the like Caſes, might from

from thenceforth do all Things appertaining to those Offices. And that they, their Heirs and Successors for ever, should thenceforth also have Power to hold Plea, as well of Trespasses, Contracts, and Agreements, as of all other Things happning within the Town. And for the better Tranquility of the said Inhabitants, and of all Merchants repayring thither, the K. then granted, that from thenceforth there should be a *Common Seal*, by his Royall Direction, consisting of two Pieces, according to Custome, for Recognizances of Debts there, according to the Form of the Statutes-Merchant made and published: The greater Part whereof to remain in the Custody of the Major for the Time being, and the lesser in the Hands of a certain Clerk to be there deputed by the said K. his Heirs and Successors, according to the Tenure of the said Statutes. And that the said Major and Clerk from thenceforth should receive Recognizances of Debts according to the Tenor of those Statutes: As also to give in Charge, and commit them to due Execution. And lastly, that there should be a *Prison* made in that Part of the Town belonging to the said Q. for the chastizing of Malefactors there taken; whereof the Mayor and Bayliffs, for the Time being, to have alwaies the Custody and Charge.

The xii Persons that purchased these Liberties for *Coventre*, being *Nicholas Michell, Henry Dodenhale, Walter Whitweb, Roger Hunt, Will. Trymelei, Geffrey Freberne, John Russhall, Rob. Thymbler, Ric. Kerseley, Will. Walsale, Maurice Norfolk*, and *Will. Wellyngbright*. Whereupon, about two Years after, they elected a Mayor, viz. *John Ward*; and after him continued the like yearly Choyce, as by the Catalogue of them, which I have at the End of my Discourse touching this City inserted, may appear. And in the Year 1355. 29 *E.* 3. did they begin to build the Walls (by Vertue of the K. License in 2. *E.* 3. before-mentioned) *Richard Stoke*, at that Time Mayor, laying the first Stone at the Gate, called New-Gate, where they began the Work: But whether they did vigorously proceed therein, I cannot say, rather supposing that they were restrained: For afterwards, when *Edw.* the Black Prince came to enjoy that Interest here, which was setled upon him by the Entail beforementioned, having granted the same to the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty thereof, to hold in Fee-ferm (for so doth that Pat. dated at *Westm.* 20. *Nov.* 37 *E.* 3. import) he gave them License to enclose this *City* (by that Name it is there called) *with a Wall of Lime and Stone embattailed*, to hold to them, their Heirs and Successours, of him the before specified Prince, and his Heirs for ever. Whereupon, the next ensuing Year, these good Men of *Coventre*, considering with themselves the great Charge that would be required in thus fortifying the Town, obtained License (3 *Nov.*) from the K. to tax all the Tradesmen and Inhabitants thereof, according to their Estates and Faculties; and to collect all such Sums of Money as should be levyed for that Purpose. For effecting whereof accordingly, the Mayor and Bayliffs then being, with *Thomas de Nassyngton, Will. Wolfe*, and *Will. Corby*, were appointed Assessors: Out of which Tax were excepted the Lands and Goods of all Ecclesiastick Persons.

And to the End, that the great Charge, which they were to undergo in making these Walls, might be the better born amongst them, the K. being very desirous to further the Work, granted a Commission (dated 3 *Julii*, 40 of his Reign) unto the Mayor and Bayliffs then being, together with *Wil. Catesby, Nich. Michell, Will. Botoner, Ric. de Stoke, Henry de Dovedale*, and *John del Tofte*, giving them Power to levy and receive these Customs following, *viz.* Of every Tun of Wine 2 *s.* of every Quarter of Malt 4 *d.* of every Ox 4 *d.* of every Hog and Calf a Peny, and every Sheep a Farthing, sold in this Town for the Space of 5 Years then next ensuing, towards the alleviating their Charge. But this Assessment much pinching the Victuallers, about 4 Years after they made a grievous Complaint to the K. alledging, that they were almost undone by it. Whereupon, by his Pat. dated 14 *Febr.* 44. of his Reign, he revoked the former Commission; commanding nevertheless, that the Merchants and other rich Men should be taxed with

with the meaner Sort, according to their ſeveral Abilities towards the Support of that Coſt in building thoſe Walls.

That *Coventre* then flouriſh'd very much, may be diſcerned by ſo great and coſtly a Work as this of the Walls, Gates, and Towers ſtill remaining, and ſecond to none in *England*, appears to be: As alſo by that incomparable Structure of St. *Michael's* Steeple, begun in *Ann.* 1373. 47 *E.* 3. *Henry Clerke* being Mayor, and finiſhed in *Ann.* 1395. 18. *R.* 2. the Year of *Richard Lichfeild's* Mayoralty. Neither did it want any Advantage that by the K. Favour could well be had: For to the End that they might ſecurely enjoy all thoſe Liberties and Priviledges granted by K. *H.* 2. *H.* 3. *Edw.* 2. and *E.* 3. which are together contained in the Charters of 15 and 20of *E.* 3. K. *Ric.* 2. in 1 of his Reign, made them an ample Confirmation: And not onely ſo, but in the ſame Year did conſtitute *John Percy*, *Adam Botoner*, *Henry de Keel*, *Simon de Lichfeld*, *John de Herdwyke*, and *John Toftes*, Juſtices for Conſervation of the Peace within the Town of *Coventre*, with Power to hear and determine Matters of Felony and Treſpaſs. And moreover, was out of his Princely Goodneſs ſo indulgent to them, that by his Pat. dated 4 *Maii*, 8 of his Reign, he ratified the Charter of Licenſe made by K. *Edw.* his Grandfather in 37. *E.* 3. for building and embattailing the Walls: And thereby granted them Liberty to dig as much Stone in his Park of *Cheyleſmore*, as ſhould ſuffice for ſo much of them as includes the Mannour-Houſe of *Cheyleſmore*, with the making of one Gate near the ſaid Park, adjoining to the Houſe of Friers-Minors (which is now called the Gray-Friers-Gate). And likewiſe, that towards the Support of that Charge, the Mayor and Bayliffs ſhould for the Space of 5 Years then next enſuing, have his Ferm of Sealing Woollen Cloaths here, to the Value of xxiiii *l.* Sterling.

And in 11 of his Reign, vouchſafed ſuch Freedome to the Mayors, after that Time to be elected there, that they ſhould not go before the Barons of his Exchequer for to take their Oathes: Neither that the Mayor, nor any of the Commonalty, ſhould from thenceforth be put to collect Tenths, Fifteens, or other Taxes out of the Compaſs of the Town. And in 15 of his Reign beſtow'd upon them as much Stone out of his Quarries in the Park at *Cheyleſmore*, as ſerved to build the Great Gate in Spon-Street, near his Chappel of Babelake. And laſtly, towards the End of his Reign, by the Aſſent and mature Deliberation with his Councel, (as the Words of his Charter import) did he grant and confirm to the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, *&c.* and their Succeſſours, that they might make Improvement and Commodity of all the Gates, Towers, Walls and Bridges about the Town; and of whatſoever Purpreſtures, as well in Lands as Waters, made or to be made; as alſo of all the Waſt Ground within the following Limits, *viz.* from *Jabets-Aſh* to the Mill called *Nalſyngtons-Milne*; and from thence to the Corner of the Stone Wall of *Cheyleſmore*-Park: And from thence by the Wall and Pale of the Park to *Baroneſwell*; and thence to the Houſe of *John atte Yate*, and ſo, leaving the Mannour and Park of *Cheyleſmore*, with the Church of the *Friers-Minors*, on the Left Hand, from thence to the Corner of *Crab-Tree-Feild*; and ſo under *Crab-Tree-Feild* by a certain Highway unto *Spon-Church*; thence to *Dudmanes-Well*; and thence to the Church and Church-yard of St. *Nich.* thence to *Botteſcroſſe*; thence to *Harnall-Quarelle*; thence to *Gosford-Green*, and *Jabets-Aſh* before-mentioned. All which was ſo given to them towards the Repair of their Walls, and Payment of the Fee-Ferm, and other Charges incident unto them.

By which Patent the Mayor, Recorder, and 4 of the moſt ſubſtantial Inhabitants, had Power to enquire of, hear, and determine all Cauſes and Complaints that might concern the Office of Juſtices of Peace, touching Labourers and Artificers; ſo that the Juſtices within the County of *Warwick* ſhould not intermeddle in this Town nor the Suburbs thereof

in

in any of those Cases. And that they the said Mayor, Bayliffs, &c. should have the Benefit of all Fines, Issues, and Profits accruing by their said Justiceship, as fully as any of their Predecessours ever had; with all other Customs and Priviledges granted to them by the same K. Progenitors.

The next observable Passage relating to this City, is, that in 21 *R.* 2. the Lists were here appointed and set, for deciding that Difference by Combat, which was betwixt *Henry* D. of *Heref.* and *John* D. of *Norf.* the K. himself being then present. The Coming of which Dukes accordingly, *viz.* the D. of *Hereford* from *Baginton*-Castle, and *Norfolk* from *Caludon*, I have in those Places already toucht.

But in K. *H.* 4. Time, I find nothing memorable, excepting that the K. held a Parliament here in *Ann.* 1404. 6 of his Reign; the Place of that Convention being a great Chamber in the Priory. Whereunto, by Special Precept to the Shiriffs in their several Counties, no Lawyer, nor any Person skilled in the Laws, was to come: Which Parliament was ever since called *Parliamentum indoctorum*: And well it might be so; for these, taking into Consideration the K. Supply with Money for Defence of the Realm, in respect of the then imminent Danger from the Scots, Welsh, &c. concluded to do it by divesting the Church of its Temporal Possessions. Whereupon there grew a hot Contest betwixt the Clergy and Laity; the Kts. for the Shires alledging, that they had often served the K. in Person against his Enemies, spent their Estates, and exposed themselves to manifold Perils, whil'st the Clergy sate idle at Home, and stood him in no Stead. To whom the Archb. of *Cant.* answered, that the Clergy had assisted as much as they; by giving Tenths as often as they gave Fifteens; and that their Tenants, for the Number of Fees they held, did personally serve in the Wars as well as theirs: And that, besides all this, they were not wanting, Day nor Night, by Masses and Prayers to implore Gods Blessing for the K. and all that served him. But the Speaker of the Commons (Sir *John Cheyne* by Name) with a stern Countenance said, that he valued not the Prayers of the Church. Whereupon the Archb. replyed, that it might easily be seen what would become of the Kingdome, when devout Addresses to God, wherewith his Divine Majestie was pleased, were set so light by. Much ado there was; but to conclude, the worthy Archb. (viz. *Tho. Arundell*) standing stoutly for the good of the Church, preserv'd it at that Time from the Storm impending.

Coventre being thus grown to such a height of Splendour by those strong and high Walls, with so many beautifull Gates, stately Turrets, and other eminent Buildings, as also by the Priviledges and Liberties granted thereto from so many Kings; and now of late honoured with the K. Presence in his Parl. there held (as I have said) raised no little Joy in the Hearts of its wealthy Merchants as may appear by what I am about to say, who shew'd themselves no Niggards of their Riches there acquired, further to promote the Glory thereof: For in 6 *H.* 5. I find, that *John Leder*, and *John Esterton*, both of *Coventre*, gave no less than 20 Mess. *John Preston*, one Mess. and 20 *s.* Rent: And the said *John Leder*, *Ric. Southam*, *Laurence Cook*, and *Will. Dilcock*, 25 Mess. 27 Acres of Land, and 13 *s.* Rent, all lying within the Precincts of *Coventre*, to the Mayor and Commonalty thereof, and their Successours, towards the Support of such Charges as they were like to undergo for the publick Affairs of this Place. And in 2 *H.* 6. *Will. Babington*, and *Will. Botoner*, taking into Consideration the Charge in Repair of those Walls, and other necessary Disbursments for the general Advantage of this Corporation, bestowed another Messuage on the said Mayor and Commonalty and their Successours for the Uses aboveſaid. At which Time the said K. confirm'd unto them the Charter of K. *Edw.* 3. for the Mayor and Bayliffs, with other their Liberties and Jurisdictions.

But above all their Favours vouchsafed

by former Kings, that of the ſame K. *H.* 6. in 30 of his Reign, muſt have Precedence: Which K. *ob ſpecialem & internam affectionem, quam erga Civitatem ſive Villam noſtram de* Coventre; *ac Majorem, Ballivos, & Communitatem ejuſdem Civitatis, ſive Villæ, gerimus,* &c.) for thoſe are the Words of his Charter) granted, that the ſaid City with the Villages and Hamlets of *Radford, Kereſley, Folkeſhull, Eccleſhale, Aneſly, Calwedon, Wykene, Henley, la Wode-End, Stoke, Byggyng, Whitteley, Pynley, Aſthull, Horewell, Harnhale* and *Whaberley*; as alſo Part of *Sow*, and that Part of *Styvichale* lying within the Liberties of *Coventre*; all which were within the Precincts of the County of *Warwick*, ſhould, from the Feaſt of St. *Nicholas*, (*viz.* 6 *Dec.*) next enſuing the Date of his ſaid Charter, be an entire County of itſelf, incorporate both in Deed and Name, diſtinct and altogether ſeparate from the ſaid County of *Warr.* for ever, and no Parcel of the ſame County; but from thenceforth called the County of the City of *Coventre* for ever. And that the Mayor and Bayliffs of the ſaid City ſhould thenceforth alſo for ever be elected at the ſame Time and Place, and according to the ſame Manner and Form as they had uſed to be in the Reign of K. *Edw.* 3. of famous Memory, by Vertue of his Letters Pat. or in the Time of any of the K. Progenitors. And that the Bayliffs of the ſaid City, from the Morrow after the Feaſt-Day of S. *Nic.* then next enſuing, ſhould be *Shiriffs* of the County of the ſaid City for ever: And yet nevertheleſs, that they ſhould ſtill execute the Office of Bayliffs according to the Form and Effect of the Franchiſes and Liberties granted by any of his ſaid Progenitors, and before that Time uſed. And that they which were to be Shiriffs of the ſaid City, as aforeſaid, ſhould in all future Times after they had that Office, take their Oaths before the Mayor for the Time being, and no other, and in the Guildhall of the ſaid City, and not elſwhere, according to due Form, for the juſt and faithfull Execution of that Office within the County of the ſaid City. And that the Mayor for the Time being, by his Letters Pat. under the Seal of his Office, ſhould forthwith certifie into the K. Court of Chancery the Names of ſuch Shiriffs ſo ſworn as aforeſaid: Which Shiriffs once every Month, upon the Tueſday, ſhould hold a Court for ever; executing all ſuch Power and Juriſdiction within their Liberties as other Shiriffs within their Bailywicks uſe to do; all Writs and Precepts, for the future, to be directed to them that had uſe to be directed to the Shiriffs of *Warwickſh.* and executed by them in Caſe the ſaid City and Hamlets had not been ſo made a County of itſelf. Which Shiriffs ſhould Annually make their Accounts in the Exchequer, before the Lord Treaſurer and Barons, or before the Barons, touching the Iſſues of their ſaid Office, or by their Atturneys.

And moreover, that the *Coroner* of the ſaid City, and his Succeſſors, ſhould thenceforth be Coroners of the County of the ſaid City for ever, and execute that Office in as ample Manner as any other Coroner within any County of the Realm had uſed to do. And that the ſaid Coroners for the Time being, ſhould be alſo Clerks for taking Recognizances of Debts there, according to the Form of the Statute for Merchants made and provided, the leſſer Part of the Seal for taking ſuch Recognizances to be alwaies in their Cuſtody.

And further, by the ſame Charter did the ſaid K. grant, that the Mayor and his Succeſſours within the ſaid City and Hamlets, ſhould exerciſe the Office of *Clerke of the Market* there; and levy and receive all Iſſues and Profits ariſing thereby, to the Uſe of them the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, of the ſaid City for ever: As alſo the Office of *Steward and Marſhall of the K. Houſhold.* And laſtly, that they the ſaid Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, with all the Inhabitants of this City, ſhould be free from *Toll, Paſſage, Pontage, Murage,* and *Pavage,* for all their Goods and Merchandize throughout the whole Realm of *England* and

and *Ireland*, and enjoy whatſoever Priviledges and Franchiſes they or any of their Predeceſſours had uſed to do. Which ample Charter bears Date at *Weſtm.* 26 *Nov.* 30 of his Reign, and was confirm'd by K. *Edw.* 4.

Having thus ſhew'd by what Degrees *Coventre* arrived to this height of Greatneſs and Freedome, I will proceed with what I have further found relating thereto, in general: Whereof the firſt which is remarkable, was that Parl. in 38 *H.* 6. wherein *Ric.* D. of *York*, *Ric.* E. of *Saliſbury*, *Ric.* E. of *Warwick*, with *Edw.* E. of *March* (afterwards K. by the Name of *E.* 4.) and many others, were attainted; the Lords Houſe being then in the Chapter-Houſe of the Priory: Which Parliament by ſome of our Hiſt. is called *Parliamentum Diabolicum*, the Acts made in it being nulled by the ſucceeding Parl. Next, that in 7 *E.* 4. the K. and Qu. kept their Chriſtmaſs here: And in 9. *E.* 4. that *Ric. Widvile* E. *Rivers*, with *John* his Son, were Beheaded upon *Gosford-Green*, on the Eaſt Part of this City But how the ſame K. *Edw.* was afterwards foyled by the Lancaſtrians, and forc'd to fly beyond Sea, and of his Landing in *Holderneſſe*, *Ann.* 1470. 10. *E.* 4. I refer to the Relation of our Hiſtorians, and ſhall proſecute the mentioning of what elſe concerns this Place; which is, that the K. being alſo landed and advanced to *York*, *Ric.* E. of *Warwick* (then turn'd to the other Side) came hither from *London* upon Midlent Sunday, and brought with him Store of Ordnance, and other Warlike Proviſions, ſtaying here till after Palm-Sunday, within which Time K. *Edw.* came to *Leiceſter*, and thence to *Combe-Abbey*, and on the Morrow to *Coventre* Towns End: But finding that the E. of *Warwick* kept this City againſt him, he paſſed by, and lodging at *Warwick* that Night, marcht thence to *London*. After which it was not long ere he met with his Enemies near *Barnet*, and vanquiſht them, where the ſtout E. of *Warwick* loſt his Life: So that K. *Edw.* by this Victory, and that near *Tewkſbury* ſhortly after, having utterly ſubdued all his Oppoſers, came to *Coventre*; and remembering the Diſloyalty of theſe Citizens in adhering to the E. of *Warwick* againſt him, took the Sword from the Mayor (whoſe Name at that Time was *John Bett*) ſeizing their Liberties and Franchiſes; whereupon they gave 500 Marks Fine for the Reenjoyment of them, and render of the Sword. Touching which Sword, the firſt Mention that I find is, in 7 *R.* 2. *viz.* that it was then carryed after the Mayor (whoſe Name was *Janyn Deiſter*) but in 11 *R.* 2. before the Mayor, *ſcil. John Toſte*; and ſo, (for ought I have ſeen to the contrary) hath been ever ſince. About 4 Years after which Reconciliation ſo made with K. *E.* 4. I find, that he came with his Q. to *Coventre*, and kept S. *George's* Feaſt there (*Ann.* 1474. 14 *E.* 4.) the Prince having come before him, and received a Preſent of *Cl.* and a Cup from the Citizens, at which Time he was one of the Godfathers to the Mayors Child.

The next Thing of Note, is that K. *H.* after that ſignal Victory at *Boſworth*-Field, where *R.* 3. was ſlain, came hither with his Army, and lodg'd at the Mayors-Houſe (by Name *Robert Onley*) whom he Knighted; at which Time the City preſented him with *Cl.* and a Cup.

THE

CROSS.

I Now come to ſpeak of that ſtately Cross here, being one of the chief Things wherein this City moſt glories; which for Workmanſhip and Beauty is inferiour to none in *England*: The Building whereof was begun in *Ann.* 1541. 33 *H.* 8. and finiſhed in *Ann.* 1544. 36 *H.* 8. as by an old MS. *Chronol.* of the Mayors appeareth; but the Name of its Founder is now utterly loſt, for ought that theſe Citizens can tell of it. To the End therefore, that they may not ſtill continue ignorant of ſo eminent a Benefactor, I ſhall here, by the Help of that judicious Antiquary (my worthy Friend) *Gervaſe Hollies*, of *Grimeſby* in Com. *Linc.* Eſq;

Eſq; revive his Memory. It was Sir *Will. Hollies*, Kt. ſometime Lord-Mayor of *London*, and Son to *Thomas Holleys*, of *Stoke* near this City (as I have evidently found amongſt the Regiſters in *Gildhall*; and not Son to *Will. Holleys*, of *London*, Baker, as *Stow* hath erroneouſly affirmed). Who bearing a Special Affection to this City, in regard he was born ſo near, gave Order for the Structure thereof, as the Words of his Teſtament (bearing Date 25 *Dec.* 33 *H.* 8.) which I have here inſerted, do import.— *And furthermore, I give and bequeath unto the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of* Coventre, *and to the Commons of the ſame, CCl. Sterling, to the Intent and Purpoſe hereafter enſuing, that is to ſay, to make a new* Croſs *within the ſaid City: Whereof delivered in Hand to Mr.* Warren, *Draper of the ſaid City, the* 24 *Day of* Auguſt *laſt, xx l. in Ready Money: And alſo more paid to Mr.* Over *by the Hands of* Salt *my Baylie of* Norall, 70 l. *in Ready Money; and ſo reſteth unpaid Cx l. Sterling, which I will and deſire my Executors ſee to be delivered and paid unto the ſaid Mayor and Aldermen of* Coventre *aforeſaid, to the Uſe and Intent aforeſaid, within one Year after my Deceaſe*, &c.

This Sir *William* was Father of Sir *Will. Hollyes*, of *Houghton* in the County of *Nott.* Kt. the Wonder of his Country for a great and ſetled Hoſpitality; and of ſo honeſt and honourable a Nature, that he is yet mentioned in thoſe Parts by the Name of *good Sir William*. Which laſt-named Sir *Will.* was Great Grandfather to that learned Gent. before expreſt, as alſo to the preſent E. of *Clare*, *Ann.* 1638. And having thus taken Notice of his Munificence in erecting ſo noble a Monument, I hope the Mention of (*Eliz.*) his Ladies Charity, though the Poor of *London* were the Object thereof, will not be thought impertinent, conſidering that it is not elſwhere taken Notice of. Which was, that by her Teſtament ſix Almshouſes for ſix poor Men or Women ſhould be built out of her Goods and Chattels; and Lands to the yearly Value of x *l.* be bought; out of which, Weekly, every one of the Alms-people ſhould receive 7*d.* the Remainder to buy Coals to make them Fires; which was accordingly performed in St. *Helens* Pariſh by *Andrew Jud*, Alderman of *London*, and *Thomas Scopham* (her Brother) her Executors: Howbeit hitherto hath it not been publickly known that ſhe was the Foundreſs, foraſmuch as *Stow* and others do attribute the Work wholly to the ſame Sir *Andrew Jud*, paſſing by this pious Lady without any Memorial for the ſame.

In that Place where this Cross is now ſituate, there ſtood antiently another: Which having been ſet up in *Ann.* 1423. 2 *H.* 6. was taken down in *Ann.* 1510. (2 *H.* 8.) but for what Reaſon, I find not.

THE next moſt memorable Thing, in Order of Time, relating to this Place, is that Purchaſe by the City, made in 34. *H.* 8. from the Crown, of much Monaſtery-Land lying in and near thereto, *viz.* The great Orchard containing 8 Acres, and the little Orchard 2 Acres: One Rode lying within the Precincts of the Priory; a Pool called **New-Pool**, containing 1 Acre; a Meſſ. called the **Mote-houſe**, with divers Lands thereto belonging, a Wood called St. **Cleres-Grove**, with a Water-Mill, and divers particular Parcels of Land lying in *Radford*. Certain Meſſ. and Lands in *Bigging*, alias *Stcke-Bigging*, with a large Field called *Harnal Field*. Divers other Grounds called the *Stripe*, *Swanſcroft*, *Parſons-Meadow*, *Marble-Field*, *Windmyll-Fields*, and **Crowmote**, The Meſſ. and Ferm of *Hawkſbery*, and *Hawkſbery-Grove*, with a certain Mannour-Houſe there, moated about; as alſo a Number of particular Grounds lying in *Sow*, *Folkeſhull*, and *Wykin*; together with the Houſe of *Friers-Minors*, (commonly called the *Gray-Friers*) with its whole Site and Circuit. All which, and much more, that for Brevity I omit to to Particularize, were for the Sum of 1378 *l.* 10 *s.* granted to the Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty, and their Succeſſors, by the K. Letters Pat. dated 19 *Julii*,

Julii, 34 of his Reign, to be held *in Capite* by the xx Part of a Kts. Fee, and paying 7*l.* 13*s.* 2*d.* yearly to the said K. his Heirs and Successors.

After which Time, *viz.* in 6 *E.* 6. that the Lands and Possessions of the *Gilds* and *Chantryes* came to be dispersst, they made the like Purchase from the Crown: For, in Consideration of the Sum of 1315*l.* 1*s.* 8*d.* they had a Grant of whatsoever belong'd to *Corpus-Christi*, and the *Trinity Gilds:* As also to those *Chanteryes*, called *Mereton's*, *Forde's*, and *Pysford's Chanteryes* (alias *Forde's Almshouses*) and *Copston's Chantry:* Together with divers Lands lying in *Weston*, *Kinsbury*, *Alspath*, *Mereden*, and *Gallesby*, in the Counties of *Warw.* and *Leic.* pertaining to them. And likewise of *Shepey's*, *Haye's*, *Preston's*, *Allesley's*, *Percye's*, *Loginton's*, and *Cellet's Chantryes*; with Lands in *Gosford-Street*, &c. pertaining to the Chappel of St. *George:* And divers Rents belonging to the Priests of St. *Michaels*-Church; with Lands in *Starton*, given for the Maintenance of *Obits*.

But it was neither the Lustre of their beautifull Cross, nor all those large and easy Acquisitions, that did any whit balance the Loss this City sustained by the Ruine of that great and famous Monastery, and other the Religious Houses, *&c.* which had so lately preceded: For to so low an Ebbe did their Trading soon after grow, for want of such Concourse of People that numerously resorted thither before that fatal Dissolution, that many Thousands of the Inhabitants to seek better Livelyhoods, were constrain'd to forsake the City: Insomuch, as in 3 *E.* 6. it was represented unto the D. of *Somerset*, then Protector, by *John Hales*, a Person of great Note in those Daies, and whose Memory is still famous here, that there were not at that Time above 3000 Inhabitants, whereas within Memory there had been 15000.

To recompence which Decay of Trade, in 6 *E.* 6. they obtained a Charter for another **Faire** to be kept here Annually, beginning 21 *Oct.* and to continue two Daies after. But, after this Time, till 19 *Jac.* I find nothing else memorable that relates to this City in general, other than what I have already mentioned in my Discourse of *Cheylesmore*. Which King then granted them a most ample Confirmation of all their former Charters, Liberties, Priviledges, Lands, and Rents. As also, that the House where they usually assemble for their City-Affairs should be called the **Councell-House** of the said City: And that those, who then were, or after that Time were to be elected thereunto, should be called **The Councell of the City**. And moreover, that the Mayor, Recorder, Bayliffs, and other Officers, should yearly be elected on their **Leet**-Day, to be held within a Month after Michaelmas by xxxi Persons, nominated of those who have formerly born the principal Offices in the City. And likewise, that there should be ten Aldermen in the ten Wards, as formerly had used to be: And that the Mayor, Recorder, and those ten Aldermen should be Justices of Peace within the same City and County thereof. As also, that the said xxxi Persons should have Power to tax themselves and all other the Inhabitants within the Walls of the said City, to the Charge of Repairing the said Walls; so as alwaies it discharge not those who of Right or Custome are liable thereto.

By which Pat. had they likewise a Grant of two new **Faires**; one to be held upon the first of *April*, and the other upon the 16th of *August*, with such Tolls as are taken in *Smythfield*, within the Suburbs of *London*. And that they should take Recognizances for the Peace, and good behaviour, and for Appearance at the Sessions within the said City. And further, that they should have a second Councel consisting of 25 Persons, called the **Common-Councell** of the said City, to prepare the Affairs thereof for the Mayor and greater Councel: And to have the Government of such Orphans of Citizens of that City, and of their Estates, as shall be commended by their own Parents to the Tutelage of the Mayor and Aldermen thereof; in which Case the Corporation, to secure the Orphans Portions to whomsoever that trusts them,

and pay six Pounds *per Centum* for their Maintenance. And lastly, that the said Mayor, Bayliffs, and Commonalty might have Liberty to purchase Lands in *Mortmayn* to the Value of 300 *l. per Annum*, to the general Behoof of the City, provided that such Lands be not held *in Capite*, nor Kts. Service. Which Pat. bears Date 18 *Julii*, 19 *Jac.*

Having now done with what concerns the City in general, I will here subjoyn a Catalogue of the Mayors thereof.

An. 1347. (21 E. 3.)
John Ward
Wille Horn
Jordan Shepey (he built JORDAN-WELL)
Will. Luff
Nich. Michell
Ric. Freberne
John Hayton
Walt. Whitweb
Henry Dodenhale

X.

An. 1355. 29 E. 3.

Ric. Stoke
Nich. Michel
Henry Clerke
Will. Botoner
Will. Yarmouth
Ric. Stoke
Nich. Percy
Will. Botoner
Henry Clarke
Will. Botoner

XX.

Henry Clarke
Will. Botoner
Henry Dodenhale
Nich. Michell
John Tofte
John Papenham
James Benyngton
John Percy
Henry Clarke
Will. Botoner

XXX.

Adam Botoner
Will. Wolfe
John Papenham

An. 1377. 1 R. 2.

John Papenham
Jynan Swynnyshed
Ric. Luff
Henry Kele
John Knight
Ric. Dodenhale
Janyn Deyster

XL.

Adam Botoner
Ric. Clarke
Henry Kele
John Tofte
Henry Kele
Henry Kele
John Scarborought
John Liberde
John Northwode
John Crosse

L.

Ric. Lichefeld
John Onley
Ric. Clarke
John Preston
Geffrey Hampton
Will. Whitchurch

An. 1399. 1 H. 4.

Nich. Dodeley
Rob. Schepley
Joh. Foundur
John Smythier

LX.

John Allusley
Will. Attulborough
John Botoner
John Wedon
Will. Bedforde
Will. Belgrave
John Goote
John Horneby

An. 1412. 1 H. 5.

Will. Dilcock
Ric. Southam

LXX.

Laurence Cooke
Rob. Schepeley
Will. Belgrave
John Onley
Adam Huyton
John Goote
John Leder

Ann. 1422. 1 H. 6.

John Esturton
Henry Peyto
Tho. Wylgrise

LXXX.

John Braytoft
Ric. Joye
Giles Alseley
John Brischowe
Laur. Cooke
Tho. Paynell
Will. Dilcock
Will. Biseld
Ric. Scharpe
John Michell

XC.

John Everton
John Kinton
Will. Swanne
Will. Carver
John Esex
John Warant
John Braytofte
Tho. Wylgrise
Ric. Braytofte
Ric. Braytofte

C.

John Lusterley
Tho. Wirley
John Walgrave
Edm. Brogreve
Ric. Scharpe
Ric. Boys
Will. Braytofte
John Freman
Ric. a Wood
Ric. Clerke

CX.

Ric. Braytofte
Rob. Bradmedowe
Gye Whiston
Will. Kempe
John Wylgrise

Ann. 1460. 1 E. 4.

Edm. Brogreve
Will. Peere
Tho. Bradmedowe
John Draper
John Pynchbecke

CXX.

John Gauge
Ric. a Wood
Will. Dawes
Will. Sawnders
Will. Stafforde
John Bette
John Thrompton
Rob. Atturton
Ric. Braytoft
Rob. Onley

CXXX.

Tho. Dowse
John Symons
Rob. Burnel
Will. Marchall
Will. Shoore
Ric. Colyns
Henry Marler

Ann. 1483. 1 R. 3.

Will. Horsley
Henry Kebull

CXL.

Ann 1485. 1 H. 7.

Robert Onley
Ric. Cooke
Tho. Bayly
Tho. Baggot
Rob. Colmon
Ric. Leye
John Wyzgston
Will. Rowley
Tho. Chyrchman

CL.

Rob. a Greene
John Paddelond
John Dove
Will. Fourde
Tho. Bonde
Will. Hapeting
John Haddon
Will. Pysford
Ric. Jackson
Ric. Coke

CLX.

Tho. Paddelond
John Dyddesbery
Tho. Wardelowe
Rob. a Greene
Ric. Smyth
Ric. Marlowe
John Sawndurs

Ann. 1509. 1 H. 8.

John Strong
Ric. Harsell
John Hardwyn

CLXX.

Tho. Growe
John Clarke
John

John Hownfere
Harre ——
Nich. Borwe
Tho. Warryn
John Bonde
Will. Whicam
Tho. Whitt
Yelins Nethermill

CLXXX.

Tho. Bunwell
Nich. Hemyng
Harre Walle
Ric. Herryng
Tho. Dod
Tho. Aſtellyn
Will. Dawſon (who dyed in the ſame Year, and Roger Whellys kept out his Mayoralty)
Ric. Riſſe
Will. Smethe
Hewe Lawtyn
Rog. Palmer

CXC.

Rob. Kyrvine
John Gett
Chriſtofer Wade
Will. Cottyne
Sym. Parkar
Tho. Gardener
Cottberd Joyner
Chriſtopher Warryn
John Sanders
Harre Woffyr

CC.

John Tallans

Ann. 1546. 1 E. 6.

John Hartford
James Rogers
Tho. Kewet
Will. Saunders
Ric. Niclyn
Edm. Dampart
Ric. Hurt

Ann. 1553. 1 M.

Will. Hyndam
Will. Norton

CCX.

Tho. Ryley
Rob. Colman
Tho. Wheatley.

Ann. 1558. 1 Eliz.

Iohn Nethermell
Tho. Dudley
Tho. Kyrven
Ric. Smyth
Hugh Harvy
Iohn Tallans
Tho. Ryley

CCXX.

Will. Hopkyns
Edm. Brownel
Will. Smalwode
Henry Kyrven
John Hartford, *deprived of his Office for killing a Man, and in his ſtead*
John Sanders
Ric. Hawten
Tho. Nicholls
Ric. Barker
Tho. Wight
Raufe Boonde

CCXXX.

Sym. Cotton
Tho. Niclyn
Raufe Joyner
Rob. Letherbarrowe
Edw. Barrowſe
Tho. Saunders
John Myles
Will. Wylkes
Gilb. Dyglen
Henry Bryers

CCXL.

Will. Eburne
Tho. Hill
John Richards
Henry Shewell
Ric. Smyth
Humfry Smalwood
Math. Richardſon
John Ryley
Will. Howcotte
Will. Walden

CCL.

Rob. Bedforde
Tho. Gravener
John Whitehead, who dyed before his Year expired, and in his ſtead
Henry Bryers
John Rogerſon
Roger Clarke
Ric. Smyth
Thomas Barker
Ric. Butler
Chriſtoph. Davenport

CCLX.

Ann. 1603. 1 Jac.

Ric. Page
Will. Wheat
Math. Collins
Henry Sewall
Humf. Wightwick
Will. Hancock
Sampſon Hopkins
Henry Smyth
Chriſtoph. Warren
John Herring
Henry Davenport

CCLXX.

John Barker
Will. Snell
Sam. Miles
Will. Sewall
Humfr. Smalwood
Henry Harwell
Iſaak Walden
John Pixley
Tho. Potter.
John Thomas

CCLXXX.

Franc. Robinſon

Ann. 1625. 1 Car.

Will. Burbage
Raph Walden
Ric. Clerke
Henry Million
John Clarke
Tho. Warde
Will. Jeſſon
Henry Kervin
Sim. Norton

CCXC.

John Barker
Edw. Owen
Tho. Baſnet
Godfrey Legg
Tho. Forreſt
John Rogerſon

Ann. 1640.

Sampſon Hopkins

Coming now to ſpeak of that great, and ſometime famous Monaſtery, called the **Priory of Coventre**, (of whoſe Founder I have already made Mention) which for the Antiquity of its Foundation, and ample Revenues, excelled all other in this County; I ſhall be bold, before I proceed in the particular Story thereof, to digreſs a little, and take a ſhort View of the Original and Increaſe of a Monaſtick Life; as alſo of the *Benedictine* Order, whereof this Monaſtery was.

That the Word *Monachus*, which is derived from the Greek Word Μόνος, ſignifieth ſuch a one as doth *ſolitariam vitam degere*, I need not ſtand to demonſtrate: But who it was that may be ſaid to have been abſolutely the firſt that begun this Courſe of Life, I find no direct Certainty. Divers aſcribe it to the Prophet *Samuell*; others to *Helias* and *Helyſeus*, that liv'd in poor Cottages and deſert Places near the River **Jordan**; and long after them S. *John* the *Baptiſt*: To whom may be added ſome of the Apoſtles, as alſo St. *Mark*, the Evang. and by their Example certain others, viz. *Paul* the Hermite, S. *Anthony*, S. *Hilarion*, S. *Baſil*, and S. *Hierome*: But of theſe *Paul* the Hermite was of greateſt Note, for his retired Living: Who, to avoyd that cruell Perſecution which raged under *Decius*, betook himſelf to the vaſt ſolitary Wilderneſs, where he lived 93 Years unknown to any. But in the Times of theſe Men they had no certain Rule:

For

For every one being free, regulated himſelf as he ſaw beſt for his Spiritual Advantage, exerciſing devout Prayers, frequent Faſtings, hard Studies, with mean and ſlender Diet, which they acquired by the Labour of their Hands, thereby giving great Examples of pious Living to all Poſterity. So that S. *Anthony* is the firſt unto whom ſome do chiefly refer the Original of this Monaſtick Profeſſion, in regard he firſt ſo wonderfully raiſed up the Deſires of all to lead this Kind of Life; and inſtituted a Rule for Monks, as S. *Baſil* did afterwards in **Greece**, and S. *Hilarion* in **Syria**. Which *Anthony* lived in the Deſert of **Thebes** (a Part of **Egypt**) and there built a Monaſtery, where, with *Sarmatus*, *Amatus*, and *Macharius*, his Diſciples, wholly exerciſing himſelf in devout Prayers, he fed upon nothing but Bread and Water; being ſo famous for his Holineſs, that *Helena* the Mother of *Conſtantine*, commended herſelf and her Son by Letters to him, and dyed in the Wilderneſs in the Year of Chriſt CCCLX. aged 105 Years.

But about 166 Years after the Death of *Anthony*, one *Benedictus Nurſinus*, born in **Umbria**, a Region of **Italy**, having long lived in much Solitude, at length came to **Sublacum**, an eminent Town of the Latins, diſtant from **Rome** near xl. Miles: And to avoyd Company, in regard many, for his Sanctity, reſorted to him, ſhortly betook himſelf to **Caſſinum**, a very antient Place in that Countrey; and there ſetling himſelf, gathered together the diſperſt and ſingly wandring Monks into one Monaſtery, inſtituting certain Forms and Rules for their Obſervance: Howbeit, the firſt that gave Laws and Rules to Monks was *Baſil*, Biſhop of **Ceſarea** in **Cappadocea**; who about the Year of Chriſt CCCLXIII. being very famous for his Learning and Piety, obliged ſuch that ſhould enter Orders to vow Poverty, Chaſtity, and Obedience to their Superiour. But *Benedict* aſſign'd to his Monks a ſpecial Kind of Habit, and appointed them a certain Form for Praying, ſlender Diet, and a new Rule of Abſtinence: And that, except in Caſe of Sickneſs, they ſhould wholly forbear Fleſh. Which Sort of Monks increaſed exceedingly; yet differing in ſome Particulars from their firſt Rule, did in Time ſubdivide themſelves into ſeveral Companies, according to their particular Fancies: Whence grew the *Cluniacenſes*, *Camalduenſes*, *Vallis-Umbrenſes*, *Montolivetenſes*, *Grandimontenſes*, *Ciſtercienſes*, *Silveſtrenſes*, *Celeſtines*, and *Heremitanes* of S. *Hierome*. Which Monks of S. *Benet*'s Rule, as their Tradition is, do wear a black Coat looſe and divided down to their Heels, with a Cowl or Hood for their Head, that falling over their Shoulders is ſhorter than others uſe: And under all have a Woollen white Coat; as alſo a Hair Shirt, with Boots to the Knees; their Heads being ſhaved with a Razor below the Midſt, by reaſon whereof the Top of the Head ſo ſhaved is called *Corona*.

And now that I am thus come to ſpeak of their Shaving, it will not be amiſs to ſhew upon what Occaſion this Cuſtome was taken up by the Monks. *Dum beatus Petrus Antiochiæ prædicaret* (ſaith my Author) whilſt S. *Peter* preacht at **Antioch**, the Gentiles, by Way of contumely towards the Name of Chriſtians, ſhaved the very Top of his Head, which afterwards was held a great Honour to the Religious, and thoſe of the Clergy. But further of ſuch Shaving ſee *P. Stellartius de coronis & tonſuris, lib. 3. cap. 1.* And here might I adde ſomewhat touching the Uſage to the Monks of this Order in the Time of their Sickneſs, eſpecially towards the Point of Death; as alſo of waſhing the Body, being dead, with the Ceremonies of Burial, were it proper for this Place: But I will conclude with inſerting the Form of their Admiſſion into the Monaſtery. *Ego frater A. promitto ſtabilitatem meam, & converſionem morum meorum, & obedientiam ſecundùm regulam S. Benedicti Abbatis, coram Deo & omnibus Sanctis ejus, in præſentia domini Abbatis N. ad monaſteriam S. Mariæ Coventriæ:* And ſhall refer my Reader to *Clem. Reinerus* his *Apoſt. Bened. in Anglia*, for further Satisfaction in the Particulars of their Rule.

Touch-

Ordinis Benedictini Monachus.

Touching the Beginning of a Monaſtick Life here in *England*, if we look after the particular Perſons, who in Times of Perſecution fled to Woods, Caves, and Deſerts for Preſervation, it will be hard to point out the firſt that ſo retired themſelves: But if we conſider their firſt being gathered into any Covent, then certainly thoſe of *Glaſtonbury* in *Somerſetſh.* and *Bangor* in *Cheſh.* will have the Preheminence; in the later whereof, as *Beda* teſtifieth, there were ſo great a Number, that being divided into 7 Parts, each having a ſeveral Ruler, every Part was no leſs in Number than 300, all which lived by the Labour of their Hands: Howbeit, theſe cannot be ſaid (for ought I know) to have lived under any other Rule than the *Eſſeans* in Paleſtine, of whom *Polydore* ſpeaketh. And therefore to come unto thoſe Times that the Order of *Benedictine Monks* was firſt tranſplanted into *England*, we are not to look higher than *Auſtin* the Monk; who, about the Year of Chriſt 595. (as ſaith mine Author) was ſent into *England* by Pope *Gregory*; whereupon Epiſcopal Sees were eſtabliſhed in ſundry Places, and Monaſteries built for Monks obſerving the Rule of S. *Benedict*; ſo that ſhortly after there were none in *England* but of that Order, which firſt began to be exerciſed in the Abby of *Glaſtonbury*; whereas before that Time they lived after the Manner of the Egyptian Covents (ſaith he): And which was ſo famous in antient Time, eſpecially through *England*, that before the Norman Conqueſt there was ſcarce a Monaſtery of any other, as I have ſpecially obſerved.

Having thus pointed at the Original of a Monaſtick Life, and of this diſtinct Rule, I ſhall now go on with the Story of this particular Monaſtery. That Earl *Leofrike* was its Founder. I have formerly intimated. And now touching this great and famous Work, I will begin with the Obſervation made thereof by our moſt antient and authentick Hiſtorians——*Quod Monaſterium*, ſaith *R. Hoveden*, ſpeaking of this, *inter cætera bona opera, quæ in ſua vitageſſit ipſe*, (meaning Earl *Leofrik*) *& uxor illius Dei cultrix, & S. Mariæ ſemper Virginis amatrox devota, nobilis Comitiſſa* Godiva, *de ſui patrimonio à fundamentis conſtruxerunt, & id terris ſufficienter locupletaverunt, ornamentis variis ita ditaverunt, ut in nullo Monaſterio totius Angliæ tanta copia auri, argenti, gemmarum, lapidumque pretioſorum inveniretur, quanta tunc temporis habebatur in illo.* Nay *Will. Malmeſb.* addeth further, that it was enrich'd and beautified with ſo much Gold and Silver, that the Walls ſeemed too narrow to contain it; inſomuch that *Rob. de Limeſie*, B. of this Dioceſs in the Time of K. *W. Rufus*, ſcrap'd from one Beam that ſupported the Shrines, 500 Marks of Silver. And touching its Dedication and Number of Monks, takes this from an approved Writer: *Anno Domini MXLIII. conſtructum fuit Monaſterium Coventrenſe à Memorandæ recordationis duce* Leurico, *& uxore ejus* Godiva; *dedicatumque eodem anno ab Archiepiſc. Dorobernenſi* Edzio, *quarto Non. Octob. poſt Paſcha, Abbate* Lefwino *cum XXIIII monachis in eodem inſtituto.*

Here the noble Founders, before recited, were both buryed; yet not in the Church, as afterwards was frequent, but in the two Porches Of which excellent Lady it is recorded, that ſhe beſtowed all that vaſt Treaſure, ſhe had been ſtoring up during her whole Life, upon this Place: And even at the Point of her Death gave a rich Chain of pretious Stones, directing it to be put about the Neck of the Bleſſed Virgins Image; ſo that thoſe that came of Devotion thither ſhould ſay as many Prayers as there were ſeveral Gems therein.

And for the Endowment thereof, did the ſaid E. *Leofrik*, by the Advice and Licenſe of K. *Edw.* the Conf. and Pope *Alexander*, at the Dedication of the Church to the Honour of God, and his Bleſſed Mother; as alſo of S. *Peter* the Apoſtle, and the Holy Virgin S. *Osburg*, and *All-Saints*, give, beſides the one Half of this Town, in which the ſaid Monaſtery was ſituate, xxiiii Lordſhips for Maintenance of the Abbot and Monks there ſerving God, with Food and Raiment,

ment, viz. *Honynton*, *Newnham*, *Chadſhunt*, *Ichenton* (Epiſc.) *Olufton*, *Sutham*, *Greneburgh*, *Burthingbury*, *Merſton* upon *Avon*, *Herdwyk*, *Waſperton*, *Cheſterton*, *Sotham*, *Ruyton*, and the one Half of *Sow*, all in this County: *Merſton* in *Gloceſterſh.* *Salwary* in *Worceſterſh.* *Eaton* upon *Dee in Cheſh.* *Kyldesby* and *Wynwik* in *Northamptonſh.* *Burbach*, *Barwell*, *Scraptoft*, and *Pakinton* in *Leiceſterſh.* with the Liberties of *Sac*, *Soc*, *Tol*, and *Theme*: Whereunto were Witneſſes the King himſelf, *Edzi* Archb. of *Cant.* *Aldred* B. of *Worceſter*, *Wolſy* B. of *Lich.* *Manni* Abbot of *Eveſham*, *Godwin* Abbot of *Winchcomb*, *Alfric* Abbot of *Perſhore*. Of Earls, *Godwyn*, *Harold*, *Siward*, and *Ordgar* of *Devenſh.* with *Alfward* of *Kynfarton*, *Wawen* of *Wotton*, and many other eminent Perſons. Which Charter was firſt confirmed by the ſaid K. *Edw.* who added theſe further Priviledges thereto, *viz.* That the Lands ſo given, as before is expreſt, ſhould be free from Taxes for ſetting forth Souldiers; as alſo for building of Bridges or Caſtles, and all Payments to the King, Biſhop, or any other Perſon. Next by Pope *Alexander*, who at that Time by his Apoſtolick Authority added, that it ſhould not be ſubject to any Dioceſan Biſhop, nor Judiciary Power, of what Order or Dignity ſoever: And that the Monks here ſerving God ſhould have Liberty to elect their Abbot out of themſelves, or any other Congregation where they pleaſed. Whoſe Bull bears Date in the Year from our Saviours Incarn. MXLIII. (1 *Edw.* Conf.) and afterwards by *Will.* the Conq. and other ſucceeding Kings.

By which great Immunities and Priviledges 'tis eaſy to be ſeen in what Glory this Monaſtery then ſtood: Nor can we doubt but that the People had it in very high Eſteem; conſidering that it was as well the Chief of all the Religious Houſes in theſe Parts, as the onely one of Monks in this County; and alſo honoured with an extraordinary Relick; *viz.* the Arm of the famous S. *Auguſtine*, Biſhop of **Hippo**, plac'd in a Silver Shrine, whereupon were graven theſe Letters: *Hoc brachium S. Auguſtini Egelnodus Archiep. rediens à Roma ad Papiam emit C. talentis argenti & talento auri.* But the particular Lands that were by the Conq. Survey recorded to belong thereto in this County, and certified under the Title of *Terra Eccleſiæ de Coventreu*, are not directly the ſame that be contain'd in the Foundation Charter, though more in Number; the Names whereof I will here onely recite; for, as I come to the ſeveral Places, I ſhall ſpeak at large of them. *Filunger*, *Graneberge*, *Surland*, *Dirbingerie*, *Bilveie*, *Condone*, *Cobintone*, *Sucham*, *Sowa*, *Ulchetone*, *Icetone*, *Edburberie*, *Herdewiche*, *Hunitone*, *Cedeleſhunt*, *Ceſtretone*, *Waſmertone*, *Neweham*, and *Radewei*: Howbeit in ſome of theſe they had not the whole Lordſhip.

Having thus manifeſted how amply it was endowed with Lands and Priviledges, the next Thing that I am to obſerve, is, how the Government thereof came into the Biſhops Hands, which hapned in the Time of K. *Will. Rufus*, in this Sort.

Shortly after the Norman Conqueſt, there was one *Peter* conſecrated B. of this Dioceſs (then including *Cheſter* as well as *Coventre* and *Lichfield*) in whoſe Time *Lamfrank* Archb. of *Cant.* held a Synod at *London*, wherein it was decreed, that Epiſcopal Seats ſhould not be in petty Towns: By Vertue whereof this was removed from *Lichfield* to *Cheſter*. To which *Peter* (who dyed and was buryed at *Cheſter*) ſucceeded *Rob. de Limeſſy* (of whom I have formerly made Mention) which *R.* upon the Death of *Lewynus* Abbot of *Coventre*, obtain'd from the K. the Cuſtody of this Monaſtery; and, by the Authority of a Bull from Pope *Paſchal* the Firſt, removed his Seat from *Cheſter* hither. Hereupon the B. ſetling at *Coventre*, and having the Government of this Monaſtery (as I have ſaid) the Name of Abbot became thenceforth utterly ſuppreſt and extinct, in regard that the Epiſcopal Dignity therein overtopt it: So that the ſucceeding Priors (for ſo were they called which had the Rule) were but as Subſtitutes to the Biſhops in whom the

the Abbacy virtually was. But this B. was neither a Friend to the Monaſtery nor to the Monks, as it ſeems: For, beſides his ſcraping ſo much Silver from one Beam, as I have already intimated he ſuffered the Buildings to decay for want of Repairs, pill'd the Church of many rich Ornaments; and as for the Monks, he kept them to poor and miſerable Commons, not regarding their regular Living, nor any Thing that might advance Learning among them; to the End, that being thus brought low, and in Ignorance, their Thoughts ſhould not ſoar ſo high as to conſider the Redreſs of theſe his ſo great Injuries.

Of the other Biſhops which ſucceſſively reſided here at *Coventre* (this being their Cathedral as well as *Lichfeld*) I ſhall onely recite the Names, their Stories being already written by *Godwyn*, viz. *Rob. de Peche*, *Rog. de Clinton*, *Walter Durdent*, *Ric. Peche*, and *Gerard de Puella*; all which in their ſeveral Times ſucceſſively, did ſtile themſelves *Coventriæ Epiſcopi* onely; and had a fair Palace at the North-Eaſt Corner of S. *Michael*'s Church-yard, being very near to the Monaſtery. But the firſt who bore the Name, and had the Office of Prior here, was one *Lawrence*, of whom I find frequent Mention in K. *Steph.* and *H.* 2. Reigns; whoſe Succeſſors I ſhall inſert elſwhere; and therefore will now proceed with the Relation of ſuch memorable Paſſages as concern this Monaſtery, and of the further Enlargement or Diminution of its Poſſeſſions, according as they hapned in Order of Time.

In which Progreſs the firſt Thing I find obſervable, is, that in 7 *Steph.* the Times being then turbulent, *Rob. Marmion* (whoſe Seat was the Caſtle of *Tamworth*) being a Man potent in Arms, and a great Adverſary to the E. of *Cheſter*, poſſeſt himſelf thereof, turn'd out the Monks, and fortified the Church with the Buildings belonging therunto, making deep Trenches in the Fields adjacent; which he ſo covered, that they could not be ſeen, to the End that they might be an Impediment to an Enemy whenſoever any Approach ſhould be made: But it ſo hapned, that as he ſallyed out with ſome Forces upon the E. of *Cheſter*'s drawing near; and not remembring whereabouts thoſe Places had been digg'd, he fell with his Horſe into one of them himſelf; and by that Means, being ſurprized by a common Souldier, had his Head preſently cut off: Whoſe Deſtruction in that Kind is by our Hiſtorians obſerved to have been as a juſt Judgement of God for prophaning this ſacred Place.

After this, *viz.* in 15 *Steph.* I find, that the Monks of *Coventre* granted unto thoſe of *Daventre* in *Northamptonſh.* the Church of *Aſhby*, with 3 Yard Land thereto belonging; and the Church of *Haddon*, with two Yard Land, excepting the Tithes and ſuch other Benefits which were due to the Church of *Winwyk* (whereof it ſeems theſe were originally Members): In Conſideration whereof, the Monks of *Daventre* were to pay Yearly to this Monaſtery 1 Pound of Incenſe before the Feaſt of the *Nat.* of our Lord. Which Grant was made in the Time of Prior *Laurence*, and begot much Love and mutual Affection from theſe Religious Houſes to each other: For ſhortly after was there an Agreement made betwixt them, that if any Monk of *Coventre* ſhould be, by the Conſent of his Prior and Covent ſent to *Daventre*, out of their great Affection to that Houſe, he ought to be freely received, and reſide there in that regular Way, as if he were one of the ſame Covent, untill he ſhould be recalled by the Pr. of *Cov.* and in Caſe he did depart this Life during ſuch his Abode there, all Solemnities to be perform'd for him as for a Monk of *Dav.* And the like were they of *Cov.* to perform to thoſe of *Dav.* touching ſuch as ſhould be ſent thither from *Dav.* And that if any of either Covent did happen to dy elſwhere, one Prieſt of each Monaſtery (his Death being known) ſhould celebrate 3 Maſſes for him, his Service with *Placebo* and *Dirige* to be alſo perform'd in the Covent, with the Corrody belonging to a Monk for that Day, and his Name regiſtred in the Martyrologe.

And

And when any of the Priors of either Monaſtery ſhould dy, a *Trentall* to be ſung in the other Covent over & above the Services before recited. And moreover every Year a *Maſs of the Holy Ghoſt* to be celebrated, as well for the Living in each Monaſtery, as for the Dead. And laſtly, that in all Things, both Spiritual and Temporal, where each might aſſiſt other, they ſhould effectually afford their Aid.

About this Time was it, that *Ranulph*, ſirnamed *Gernons*, E. of *Cheſter*, bearing a great Reſpect to theſe Monks, gave them Liberty to have 2 Carts going to and fro twice every Day, except Feſtivals, into his Woods about *Coventre*, to fetch thence whatſoever they might need, in order to the Repair of their Buildings, Fuel for their Fire, or Trowſe for their Hedges. And being fully aſſured that the Chappel of S. *Mich.* here in *Cov.* and all the reſt within the Town and without, with the Tithes, Oblations, and Rights to them belonging, ſituate within his Fee, did juſtly belong to them, he made them his Charter of Recognition, and confirm'd them to this Monaſtery for the Health of his Soul, as alſo for the Souls of his Father, Mother, and all his Progenitors. After which, *viz.* in 12 *H.* 2. upon Return of the Certificats touching Kts. Fees, the Prior of this Houſe ſignified that he had 7. and a third Part, with two Fifths and a Tenth, *de veteri Feoffamento*; and as much in Demeſn as countervail'd ten Kts. Fees.

And in 29 *H.* 2. was there an Exchange of Land made betwixt theſe Monks and *Hugh Keviliok*, the ſucceeding Earl; for Licence thereof they gave xx Marks to the King. About which Time the ſaid E. granted to them a free and ample Charter, as well of Protection as Confirmation of their Poſſeſſions; forbidding all his Tenants from hindring their Market, or medling ought therein without the good Liking of the Monks. And to the End that Poſterity ſhould not be ignorant which were the Metes and Bounds betwixt both their Fees, that is to ſay, of the Priors Part and Earls Part, he by the ſame Charter fully deſcribes them, including the Lands of the ſaid Monaſtery within theſe following Limits, *viz.* beginning at St. *Mich.* Churchyard, and from thence directly going to the *Broad-gate* of his own Caſtle, leaving the Houſes of *Will. de Repyndon*, and *Will.* the Son of *Ric. Forthwy* (Tenants to the Monaſtery) on the North Part, and the E. Fee on the South: And ſo paſſing down to the River of *Smythesford*, and from thence aſcending the Brook to the Mill of *Ger le Vinter* of *Hull* and *Radeford* even unto *Cundealm* (modo *Coundon*) and ſo coaſting aſide betwixt the Grounds of *Rob. Scot* of *Ailewardſiche* near *Blakemore*, being the Lands of *R. Beaufiz* and *Anketill Locard* on the one Part, and the E. Wood called *Haſelwood* on the other Part; and thence by the Brook of *Endemere* to the High-way leading from the midſt of *Harnall* near to *Stoke*, as far as the *Gibbet*, and thence deſcending by *Biſſeleie* to the Brook called *Goſeford*; and ſo along that Brook and the Ditch, hard to the Land of *Will. Hakun*, and thence to the Walls of the ſaid Monaſtery.

To which *Hugh* ſucceeded *Ranulph*, ſirnamed *Blundevill*, in the ſaid Earldom of *Cheſter*, and Seignory here; who ratified to theſe Monks the Recognition and Confirmation made by E. *Ran.* his Grandfather of the Chappell of the S. *Mich.* and all the reſt; *viz.* *Anſty*, *Shilton*, *Wykin*, *Bilney*, *Whitley*, *Pinley*, *Stoke*, *Stichall*, *Eccleſhall*, *Folkeſhull*, *Kareſley*, *Whaberley*, *Sponne*, and *Biſſeleie* within his Fee, in all which he ſolemnly inveſted them on the Feaſt-day of S. *Abdon* and *Sennes*, in the Month of July, 3. R. 1. by his Gold Ring, which with his ſaid Charter he offred upon the Altar. To which Chappell of St. *Mich.* he likewiſe conferred the Tithe of all his Lands and Poſſeſſions, here in *Coventre*; and that under the Penalty of a Curſe upon his Officers, Servants and Heirs, in caſe they ſhould not make due Payment of them accordingly. And beſides this did he give to the ſaid Monks in Exchange for one Cart of thoſe two, which E. *Ran.* his Grandfather, by his Charter granted them

them to have going too and fro in his Woods for neceſſary *Houſebote*, *Firebote*, and *Heybote*, (as I have formerly ſignified) 280. Acres of Land, being Part of his Wood and Waſt in *Eccleſhale* and *Kerſley*, according to 25 Foot the Perch, (the Metes & Bounds whereof are in this his Charter perfectly ſet forth). Which Waſt he gave them Liberty to incloſe, reduce into Tillage, or otherwiſe to uſe for their beſt Commodity.

But I now come to that ſad Misfortune which befell theſe Monks about this Time; the Story whereof is briefly thus. *Hugh Novant*, a Norman by Birth, having been brought up to Learning in the Univerſity of *Oxford*, and conſecrated Biſhop of this Dioces towards the later End of *H.* 2. Raign; at the ſame Time that he had the Biſhoprick confer'd upon him by the K. had he alſo a Grant of the Priory in ſuch Sort as *Rog. de Clinton* his Predeceſſor enjoy'd it; *viz.* in Demeſn with the Barony, wherein he received Homage of the Freeholders, and found the Monks all Neceſſaries according to his own Pleaſure: But during the Life of the ſaid King *Henry*, did he not poſſeſs what was ſo granted to him. Whereupon he came to K. *Ric.* 1. (his Son and Succeſſor) and purchas't a Confirmation of his Fathers Grant: And beſides all this, obteyn'd a render of the Houſe by *Moyſes*, the then Prior at *Reding*, in the Preſence of *Baldwin*, Archbiſhop of *Cant.* the Biſhops of *London* and *Rocheſter*, and many other Perſons of Note. After which the ſaid B. holding a Synod in the Church of this Monaſtery, wherein ſome Things were agitated tending much to the Prejudice of the Monks, as it ſhould ſeem, though the Particulars are not recorded, he ſo much incens't the Monks that they ruſh't in upon him, and with a Croſs of that Church broke his Head: Whereupon Complaint being preſently made to *Will.* B. of *Ely*, Chancelour of *England*, and at that Time not onely the Popes Legate, but Governor of the Realm in the Abſence of K. *Rich.* then on his Journey to the Holy-Land, that the Monks had ſhed his Blood even before the Altar; he forthwith decreed that they ſhould be expelled, and ſecular Canons plac't in their room: Which Judgment the proud B. ſoon put in Execution; and by ſtrong Hand turning them out, did, to juſtify himſelf therein, forthwith diſpatch Letters to *Rome*, whereunto he had got the Hands of other Biſhops, ſignifying, that the Monks of *Coventre* had deſerted their Rule, and were contaminated with ſecular Polutions; thereupon petitioning his Holyneſs that he might have the free Diſpoſall of that Monaſtery. Unto which Letters the Pope gave no preſent Anſwer, expecting to have heard what the Monks could ſay for themſelves: But they, being much impoveriſh't by the Biſhop's Oppreſſions (for he was then a potent Man, having the Cuſtody of the Countyes of *Warr.* and *Leic.* committed to his Charge for ſeverall Years of King *Rich.* Reign) were not able to ſend to *Rome* in their own Defence; ſo that the B. had his Deſires fulfill'd, the poor Monks being ſcattered up and down to ſeek their Fortune in the World. In which baniſh't Condition they continued during the whole Life of that B. who lying upon his Death-bed at *Bec.* in *Normandy*, in the laſt Year of K. *Ric.* Reign, became ſo ſenſible of his great Iniquities; and in particular of the Injuries done to theſe Monks, that he deplored the ſame with abundant Sighs and Teares; earneſtly deſiring that Prayers and Interceſſions ſhould be made unto God for him. And not then knowing how to make other Satisfaction than to end his Dayes in their Habite, with great Mourning beſought the Abbot of *Bec.* that for the Love of God, and Shame of the Devill, he would vouchſafe to grant him the Habite of a Monk, to the End that he might have them to be his Patrons in the World to come, whom he had ſo perſecuted in this. Which being accordingly fulfill'd, he diſpoſed all his Gold and Silver, Jewels and Plate, to Houſes of Religion, and unto the Poor; and by Way of Satisfaction for his manifold Tranſgreſſions condemn'd himſelf

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to the Pains of Purgatory *usq; in diem Judicii cruciandus*, and so dyed.

At which Time there was Resident in the Court of **Rome**, one *Thomas*, a Monk of *Coventre*; who being expell'd with the rest, was studious to obtain a Restitution of this Monastery to its former Condition; and therefore waited all Opportunities, though through Want he was often forc't to beg his Bread: And when News was brought of the Bishops Death, being then in good Hopes to be heard, he exhibited his Petition to Pope *Innocent* the Third (then newly created and sitting with his Cardinalls in the Consistory); which so soon as his Holiness had read, in an angry Mood he bad the Monk withdraw, telling him, that other Petitions to the same Purpose had been exhibited to *Clement* and *Celestine*, his Predecessors, but rejected, and therefore his Expectations were vain. Unto which the Monk with bitter Tears replyed: *Holy Father! my Petition is just and altogether honest, and therefore my Expectation is not vain; for I expect your Death, as I have done your Predecessors for there shall one succeed you who will hear my Petition to Purpose.* But the Pope, taking Notice of these Expressions from the poor Monk, and much wondring at them, said to the Cardinals, *Hear you not what this Divell hath spoken? scil. I expect your Death as I have done your Predecessors*; immediately turn'd to him and said, *Brother, by S. Peter, thou shalt not here expect my Death, for thy Petition is granted*; and forthwith before he went to Dinner, directed his Letters Mandatory to *Hubert* Archbishop of *Canterb.* that upon Sight of them he should presently go to the Church of *Coventre*, and thence put forth the Clerks, and reinvest the Monks: Which the said Archb. did accordingly xv. Kal. Feb. 1198. (*ult. R.* 1.) And because *Moyses* the Prior was dead in the Time of their Banishment, he constituted in his Stead one *Joybert*, a Norman, who for his eminent Wisdom in worldly Affaires, had the Government also of *Daventre*, *Wenloc*, and *Bermundsey* committed to him. Which *Joybert* was no sooner entred upon his Charge, but he speedily, with the Consent of the Monks elected *Geffrey Muschamp*, Archdeacon of *Cliveland*, to be B. as being a Man from whom they expected nothing but fair Regard.

The Monks therefore thus re-establish't took into Consideration the Conveniencies of their House and all other Securities that might tend to their Advantage, as appears by what I shall Instance: For in 5. *Joh.* they procured an Alteration; of the **Market**, but how the Record expresses not; in Consideration whereof they gave a Fine of 5. Marks to the King. And the next ensuing Year did they obtain the **K.** speciall Letters of Protection for themselves, their Tenants, and all their Possessions: As also such a Priviledge, that they should not be impleaded for any of their Lands except before the K. himself, or his Chief Justice, for which they gave 2 Palfreys. The like Charter of Protection had they in 11. *E.* 3. and, besides another, of sundry Priviledges, viz. *Sok*, *Sak*, *Tol*, *Them*, *Infangenthef*, *Hamsocne*, *Forstal*, *Blodwithe*, *Fithwithe*, *Wardwite*, and *Mundbriche:* And that they and all their Tenants, except those which held by Knights Service more than Half a Kts. Fee, should be quit of Murder, Robbery, Suit to the County or Hundred-Courts, Ayd to the Shiriff, View of Frank-plege, and Repair of the K. Castles or Pooles. In Consideration of which Favours they payd to the K. a Fine of 60. Marks; towards the raysing whereof they had Aid of their *Coventre*-Burgers. In the same Year had they a Grant of an yearly **Faire** to last for 8 Days, beginning on the Day of S. *Leodigarius* the Martyr, which falls out *Oct.* 2. And in 16. *H.* 3. did *Geffrey*, the then Prior, purchase of *Gerard de Allespath* Half a Hide of Land in *Old Fillongley* to the Use of this Monastery.

Touching such extraordinary Charges whereunto they were subject in this K. Time, I find, that in 13. *H.* 3. they gave a Fine to be exempt from sending Souldiers in Person for the Expedition then beyond

beyond Sea; and to have Power for levying Scutage of their Tenants for ten Kts. Fees, which they held of the King *in Capite*, viz. 3. Marks *pro quolibet ſcuto* towards that Service. As alſo in 18. *H.* 3. a Fine of 25 Marks, that they might not ſend Souldiers to the Kings Army in **Wales**. In 20. *H.* 3. they anſwered xx. Marks for 8 Kts. Fees *de veteri Feoffamento*, upon Collection of the Aid for marrying of *Iſabell* the Kings Siſter to the Rom. Emp. In 26. xv. Marks, by Way of Aid, upon the K. Transfretation into **Gaſcoyn**. In 29 10. li. for x. Kts. Fees, upon the Aid for Marriage of the Kings eldeſt Daughter. Towards their better Support of which Burthens they had the K. Letters of Recommendation to all their Tenants, for the receiving Aid from them; which bear Date in *Octob.* 33. of his Reign.

But, it ſeems, that theſe Taxes fell thus heavy upon them, before they had in any reaſonable Meaſure recovered themſelves out of the low Condition wherein they had been caſt by the Oppreſſion of *Hugh Novant*, the B. before-mentioned: For I find, that in the Time of Prior *Roger* (who died about the 32. of this King's Reign) there being a great League of Friendſhip betwixt the Monks of this Monaſtery, and the Canons of *Derley*, in *Derbyſh.* theſe of *Coventre* repreſented their miſerable Condition unto thoſe of *Derley*, not only with very lamentable Expreſſions, but with Tears; proteſting, that their Wants were ſo great, that the whole Covent was like to be diſperſed, except they had preſent Succour; and therefore humbly beſought the Canons of *Derley*, that they would vouchſafe to receive ſome of them into their Monaſtery, there to have Subſiſtence for a while, *quouſq; oriens ex alto, miſeratio altiſſimi, noſtro fœliciùs illuxerit occidenti*, are their Words. Of which great Good-will, that had been for a long Time before, betwixt theſe two Religious Houſes, I find this Teſtimony, that by Way of mutuall Curteſies, the Monks of *Coventre* uſed to ſend unto them of *Derley* Needles and Sope; and they of *Derley* to theſe Saddles and Riding-Furniture.

But after this they received, as well from the King as others, divers great Favours and Benefits for the Advantage of their Monaſtery: For in 34. *H.* 3. it was, that they obteyn'd in Fee-Farme from *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife, all their Intereſt in the Mannour of *Coventre*, with the Advouſon of the Church of S. *Mich.* and the Chappells thereunto belonging; excepting their Capitall Seat called *Cheyleſmore*, and the Park, with the Houſe of *Friers-Minors*; and the Homage and Services of their Freeholders, whoſe Names I have particularly expreſt already in my Diſcourſe of the ſaid *Roger*. And in 41. *H.* 3. had they the Kings Charter of **Free-Warren** in all their Demeſn Lands of *Coventre*, *Cundulme*, *Sow*, *Wylenhale*, *Frankton*, *Merſton*, and *Herdwyke*, *Sutham*, *Olethon*, *Offechurch*, *Waſperton*, *Honyton* and *Packwood*, with divers other Places in this County and *Leiceſterſhire*. As alſo in 44. *H.* 3. an Appropriation of S. *Michaels* Church before-mentioned, with all the Chappells thereunto belonging, viz. *Anſty*, *Shulton*, *Wykin*, *Stoke*, *Bilney*, *Sow*, *Stichall*, *Folkeſhull* and *Sponne*; and of *Trinity*-Church with it's Chappells; the Chappell of S. *John*, with the Hoſpitall; the Churches of *Corley* and *Alleſpath*; the Church of *Herdwyke*, and it's Chappells, with Archidiaconall Juriſdiction there: The Church of *Packwood*, with Archid. Juriſdiction alſo; and likewiſe the whole Tythes ariſing in their Demeſn Lands, wherſoever. In 46. *H.* 3. the like Appropriation for *Offechurch*. And in 51. *H.* 3. a Confirmation of their Foundation Charter by E. *Leofrik*, with the Bull of *Pope Alexander* the Firſt: As alſo a further Grant of Freedom from doing Suite to the County or Hundred-Courts, and to the Shiriffs-Turn: And that they ſhould have a Coroner within the Town of *Coventre* that might anſwer before the Juſtices Itinerant for whatſoever concern'd that Office: And moreover a *Merchants-Gild*, with all Priviledges thereto belonging, and that they, their Tenants, nor their Goods ſhould be diſtreyned

treyned for any Debt not properly their own, or for which they were Suretyes.

And after this, ere long, ſuffering great Loſſes by Reaſon of ſuch Excurſions as young *Montfort* and his fellow Rebells in *Kenilworth*-Caſtle, or the Kings Army, during the ſix Months Siege thereof, did make, had they the Kings Letters-Pat. recommending their Wants to all their Tenants, and deſiring them that they would ſo contribute to their Relief, as that they might expect Recompenſe at God's Hand, and Thanks from him. And in 5. E. 1. Licenſe to incloſe certain waſt Grounds neer *Coventre*, which *(inter alia)* were granted to them in Fee-Ferme by *Roger de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife. So that the State wherein this Monaſtery ſtood, about thoſe Times, was thus repreſented by a ſpeciall Inquiſition taken ſhortly after; *viz.* that, conſiſting of black Monks, it had therein a Cathedrall Church: And that the Prior and his Covent, together with the Chapter of *Litchfield*, did elect the Biſhop, theſe having the firſt Voice: That the Prior, here, was alſo Lord of this Town, a Moytie whereof, with the whole Barony, he held of the K. *in Capite*, by the Service of 2 Kts. Fees in the Army: And had a Weekly Mercate on the Fryday; and a Faire every Year, enduring 8. Days, with a Coroner, and Free-warren in all his Demeſn-Lands: Which Moytie he held as freely as Earl *Leofrik* did the ſame of K. *Edward* the Conf. And that he the ſaid Prior with his Tenants, being priviledg'd of Murther, had Gallows, Pillory, Tumbrell, Aſſiſe of Bread and Beere; as alſo Fealty of his Burgers, and Appearances at his Court twice in the Year; for all which the Charters of K. H. 3. and divers other his Progenitors were then exhibited.

And moreover, that he held the other Moytie, called the Earls Part; with the Out-Wood, wherein the Inhabitants claymed Common of Paſture for all Manner of Cattell, and other Commoning in the Woods belonging to the Abby of *Stoneley*, of the Heirs of *Roger de Montalt*, by the Service of cx. Marks *per Annum*, according as in the Fine levyed betwixt the ſaid *Roger* and *Cecily* his Wife, and the ſaid Prior and Covent is more at large conteined: Which Heirs held it of the K. as of the Fee of *Cheſter*. In which Half the ſaid Prior had once in the Year, a Faire laſting ſix Days, about the Feaſt of the holy *Trinity*; with Gallows, Pillory, Tumbrell, Aſſize of Bread and Beere; and Fealty of all the Burgers; as alſo two Appearances yearly at his Court. By which Inquiſit. likewiſe appeareth, that the whole Town was then exempt from *Toll*, excepting for Horſes, whereof the Burgers were onely freed; but that the ſaid Burgers had *Toll* of Horſes for their own Tenants there inhabiting: And that the ſame Prior had three Mills here, with the Ponds thereto belonging; and two Pools in Demeſn. All which Immunities and Priviledges were in 13. E. 1. pleaded by the Monks; who then likewiſe manifeſted, that they had Time out of Mind enjoyed two great Courts every Year in this Place; and Weyfs: And that the Priors Bayliff uſed ever to go along with the K. Bayliff to execute all ſuch Precepts as concern'd the Crown: As alſo, that the Town of *Coventre* anſwered for xii. having Free-Warren *Infangthef*, Aſſiſe of Bread and Beer, Mercate, and Faire, with all Thing belonging thereto: Pillory, Tumbrell, and a Coroner of their own: And that they were quit of Murther, Robbery, Suite to the County or Hundred-Courts, Ayd to the Shiriff, *&c.*

Touching the Mercate they had here, it was kept in that Part of the Town called the Priors Half, as it ſeems; where ſtill it continues, that being the Place peculiar thereunto: For in *E.* 2. Time, upon a Suite commenced by the Prior againſt one *Will. Graumpe* and others, for ſelling divers Wares in *Erle-Street* every Week upon the Friday in their Houſes and Shops; who pleaded, that they did ſo by Vertue of the Charter antiently granted to them from the Earl of *Cheſter*; in which was contein'd, that they ſhould enjoy as ample Liberties as

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the Burgeſſes of *Lincoln*; and added, that the ſaid Earl had in his Time a Faire in that Street, and ſo likewiſe his Heires, till ſuch Time as the before-mentioned *Roger de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife demiſed that Street to the Predeceſſors of the ſaid Prior; Judgment was given for the Prior with lx. li. Damages; and Command that they ſhould not ſell their Commodities any where upon the Friday, but in the Priors Part. But in *E.* 3. Time, after the Poſſeſſion of *Cheyleſmore*, came to the Hands of Q. *Iſabell*, there grew ſome Diſpute touching the Extent of the Priors Part; ſo that, by an Indenture tripartite, bearing Date 29. *E.* 3. made betwixt the ſaid Q. with the Mayor and Commonalty on the one Part, and the Prior and Covent on the other, the Diviſion betwixt their ſaid Parts was by Metes and Bounds there deſcribed, in Manner following, *viz.* beginning at the Stones or Pillars near the Croſs of S. *John Bapt.* Hoſpitall, including Northwards all *Biſhop-Street*; and ſo all along towards the Common-Quarry, neer the Garden of *Ric. Buckmore*; and thence ſtreight on, taking in all S. *Nicholas-Street*, even to the High-Way leading unto *Radford*; and ſo through the Midſt of *Radford* to *Broad-Oak* towards the Eaſt; and thence to *Whittemore*, environing that Mannour; and ſo to *Blakemore*, and *Cuenetford*; and thence turning aſide by a little Brook running from *Endemere* towards *Coventre* into *Swanneſwell*-Pool: And from that Pool by a Hedge and Ditch of the Priory, neer to the Gate called *Derugate* to *Erleſmylne*; and thence on the Back-ſide of *Erleſ-Orchard*, including the Biſhops-Palace, and ſo to the Wall of the Priory Well-yard, and along by the Gate of the Monaſtery to the Corner of *Trinity*-Church-Yard, where the Butchers uſe to be; and from that Corner directly along by the Weſt Gate of the Priory, and the Gueſt-Stable-Wall to the running River; and ſo thwarting the Brook, excluding S. *John*'s Hoſpitall and the Bake-houſe belonging thereto, unto the Croſs or Pillars before-mentioned. So that whatſoever is included within thoſe Bounds was the Priors Part, and all the reſt the Earles Part.

Divers other Covenants are contain'd in the ſaid tripartite Indenture, whereof the Friday Market for Cattell and Timber, is one of the principall, which was agreed to be kept in *Biſhop-Street*, and *Cook-Street*, as it had wont to be; but that the ſaid Prior and his Succeſſors ſhould take no *Toll*, except for Horſes onely: And that the Sale of all other vendible Commodities whatſoever, in this Town, ſhould be by the ordering of the Mayor and Commonalty, and their Succeſſors for ever.

As for the ſeverall Meſſuages and Lands purchaſed by the Monks of ſundry Freeholders within the Precincts of *Coventre*, as alſo in their other Lordſhips, in *E.* 2. Time and afterwards, I ſhall decline the particular Mention of them, in regard, that there is not any Thing very notable to be obſerved, either of the Perſons from whom they were acquired, or of the Lands themſelves.

The next Thing that, in Order of Time, I meet with, which may be reckoned worthy of Note in relation to this Monaſtery, is, that the Clergy, and People of the Archdeaconry of *Coventre* did in *Anno* 1410. (12. *H.* 4.) make an humble Repreſentation to *John Koterich* B. of this Dioces, that the Memory of the Holy Virgin S. *Oſburg* (unto whom this Monaſtery was ſpecially dedicated) grew famous for many Miracles in thoſe Dayes; for as much as divers weak and infirm People, which came to her Tombe, ſituate in the Priory-Church, and there and elſwhere imploring her Prayers and Merits, had been reſtored to bodily Health and Soundneſs; and therefore did petition the ſame Biſhop, that her Birth-Day might be ſolemnized, and the ſaid Virgin reverenced in Hymnes and Pſalmes, with other devout Suffrages. Whereupon the B. cauſed a Synod of the Clergy of this Archdeaconry to be convened in the ſaid Church the 13. of *Octob.* in the ſame Year; wherein it was determined, that her ſaid Birth-Day ſhould be ſolemnized and kept, as a double Feſtivall throughout the whole Archdeaconry every Year for ever, and in

as compleat a Manner as the Feaſt of the Churche's Dedication.

But I now come to that fatall Survey in 26. *H.* 8. the Forerunner of its Diſſolution; wherein I ſhall not deſcend to Particulars, but only repreſent what the yearly Revenew thereof was then certified to be, *viz.* 731. li. 19. s.-05. d. Out of which the Fee-Ferme Rent to the Crown, reſerved by *Rog. de Montalt* (as I have ſhewed) with all other Penſions and Annuall Payments amounting to 249.li. 05s. 09d. being deducted, the clear Remainder was 499li. 07. s. 04 d. *per Annum*. Amongſt which Deductions I find that 14. li. 13. s. ii. d. *per Annum*, was reckoned for Bread, Beer, and two Meſſes of Meat daily, *viz.* as much as would ſuffice for two Monks, and allowed to the Poor of S. *John*'s Hoſpitall (within this City) upon the firſt Foundation thereof. And 06. li. 13. s. 04. d. in Money, Bread, Wine, and other Victuall diſtributed to poor People on *Maunday-Thurſday*, yearly, at the Waſhing of their Feet. And alſo 12. li. 11 s. 04. d. for the yearly Maintenance of poor Scholars in the ſaid Monaſtrey. And 26s. 8d. for to keep the Anniverſary of E. *Leofrik* the Founder, and of the Counteſs *Godeva* his Wife. At the Time of which Survey *Henry* Marq. *Dorſet* was High Steward, and had 04 li. *per Annum* Penſion; and *Will. Gevyns*, Receiver-Generall, who had 10 li. *per Annum* Annuity.

But behold the Inſtability of theſe terreſtriall Things; what the pious Founder, and all other its worthy Benefactors had, with great Zeal to Gods Glory, ſo cheerfully given and beſtowed on the Structure, Endowment, and adorning of this ſometime famous Monaſtery; and that with ſuch heavy Imprecations and Curſes upon any that ſhould take away or diminiſh ought thereof, as the Charters before cited do manifeſt: Againſt which Violators of the Church its Patrimony, the Repreſentative Body of this Realm had alſo, ſo often, *in terrorem*, pronounc't ſolemn Curſes in open Parliament, as whoſoever ſhall caſt his Eye upon our Statutes and publique Hiſt. may diſcern; was ſubverted, torn away, and ſcattered in 30. of King *H.* 8. Raign, after it had ſtood near 500 Years, the Glory of all theſe Parts: At which Time the very Church itſelf, though a moſt beautifull Cathedrall, and the Mother-Church of this City, ſcap't not the rude Hands of the Deſtroyers; but was pull'd in Pieces and reduc't to Rubbiſh: For the Countenance of which ſad Act, the then Prior and Covent, ſeeing the Fate of ſome others that refus'd, was no leſs than to be hang'd up at their Gates, were brought to make Surrender of the ſame into the Hands of Commiſſioners for the Kings Uſe, as appears by their publique Inſtrument under Seal, bearing Date 15. *Jan.* in the Year aboveſaid, with all the Names of thoſe that ſubſcrib'd thereunto, which I have here ſubjoyned, with their ſeverall yearly *Penſions* that were granted to them during Life.

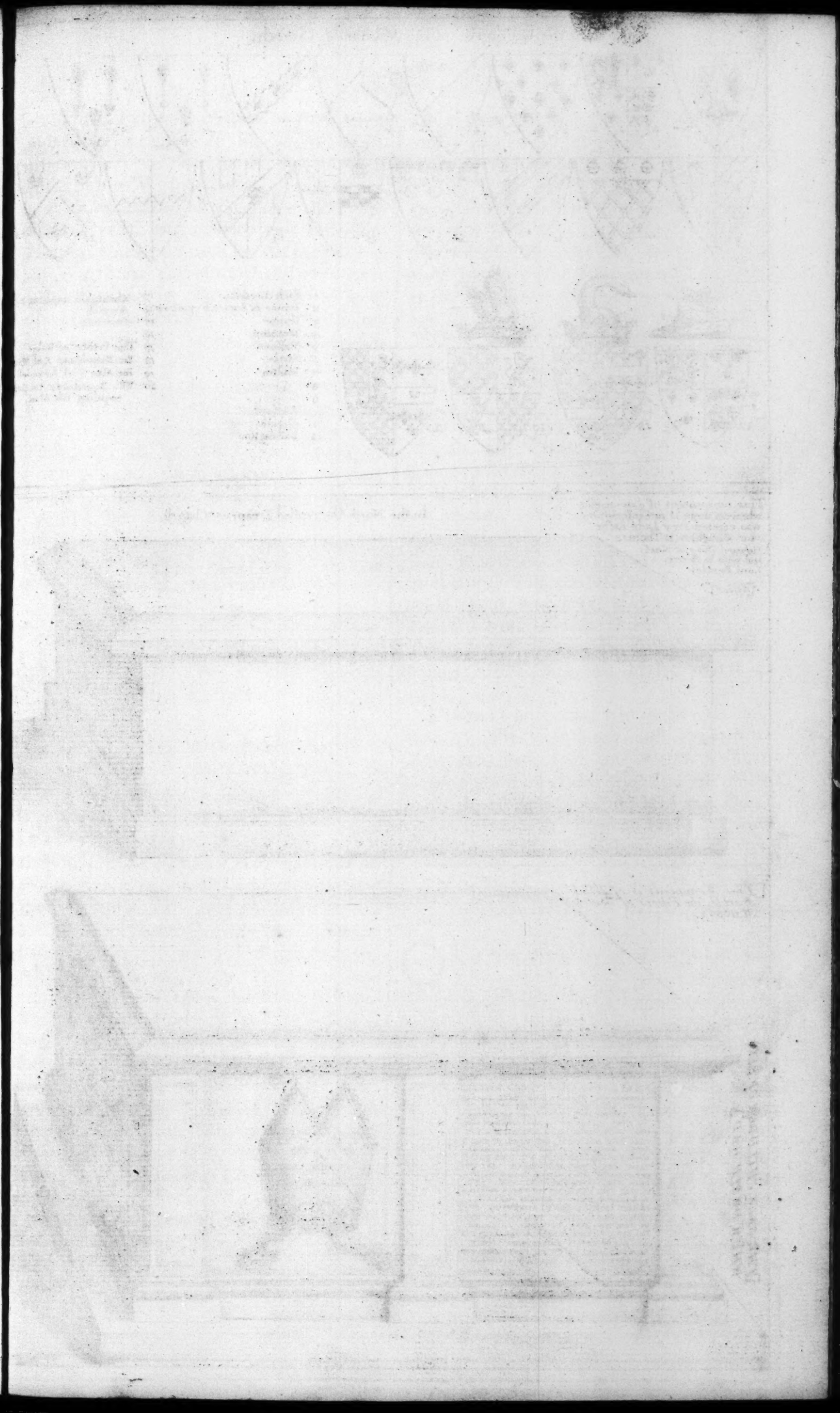
Thomas Camſwell Prior,	Rob. Wyldy
Ric. Bernaculus ſub-Pr.	Tho. Chamburs
Winsfri us Cellarar.	Nich. Bromyche
Will. Waters	Will. Foſter
Joh. Reſton	Joh. Howlee
Joh. Evans	Will. Bouchere

Thomæ Camſwell, Priori ibid	133.li.06s.-08.
Ric. Barnacle Monacho ibid	13.--06.--08.
Tho. Wynter Monacho ibid	06.--13.--04.
Rob. Wylde Monacho ibid	16.--06.--08.
Tho. Leke Monacho ibid	06.- 00---00
Humfr. Colar Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Joh. Ecculſal Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Joh. Evans Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Tho. Chamburs Monacho ibid	06.--13.--04.
Nich. Brenynth Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.
Will Foſter Monacho ibid	05.--06.--08.

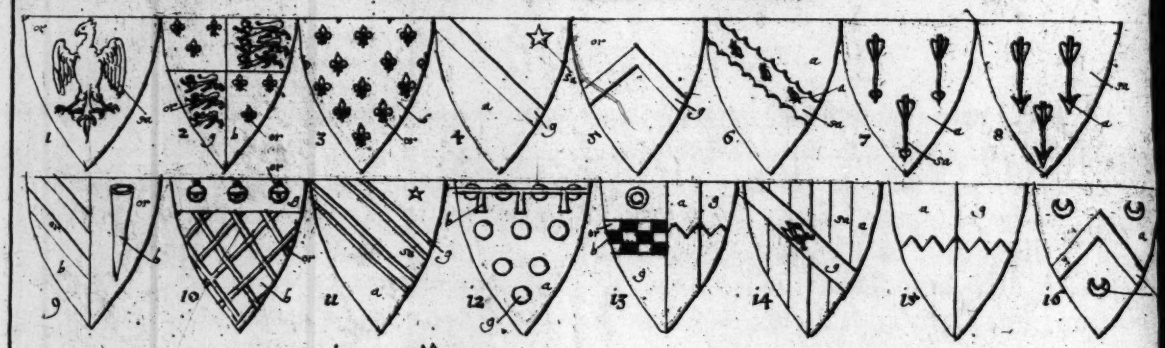
Priores de Coventre.

Lefwinus Anno. 1043.
Laurentius, obiit 4. Cal. Feb. Anno. 1179. (25. H. 2.)
Moyſes, obiit 17. Cal. Aug. Anno 1198. (10. R. 1.
Joibertus, obiit 18. Cal. Julii 1216. (18. Joh.)
Galfridus, electus 16. Cal. Aug. 1216.
Rogerus, 32. H. 3.
Willielmus, 33. H. 3.
Henr. Irreys, 13. Cal. Maii. 1342.
Will. de Dunſtaple. 7 Cal. Sept. 1349.
Will. de Grenburgh 10. Cal. Aug. 1361.
Jac. de Horton . . . Oct. 1391.
Rog. Cotton. 7. Aug. 1396.
Ric. Croſby 10. Maii 1399.
Ric. Nottingham 11. Maii 1437.
Tho. Derram obiit 14. Apr. 21. E. 4.
Ric. Shaw. 14. H. 7.
Will. Poleſworth. penult. Febr. 1500.
Tho. Wiford 26. H. 8.
Tho. Camſwell 30. H. 8.

Which



In the Windows of S^{t}: Michaells Church,

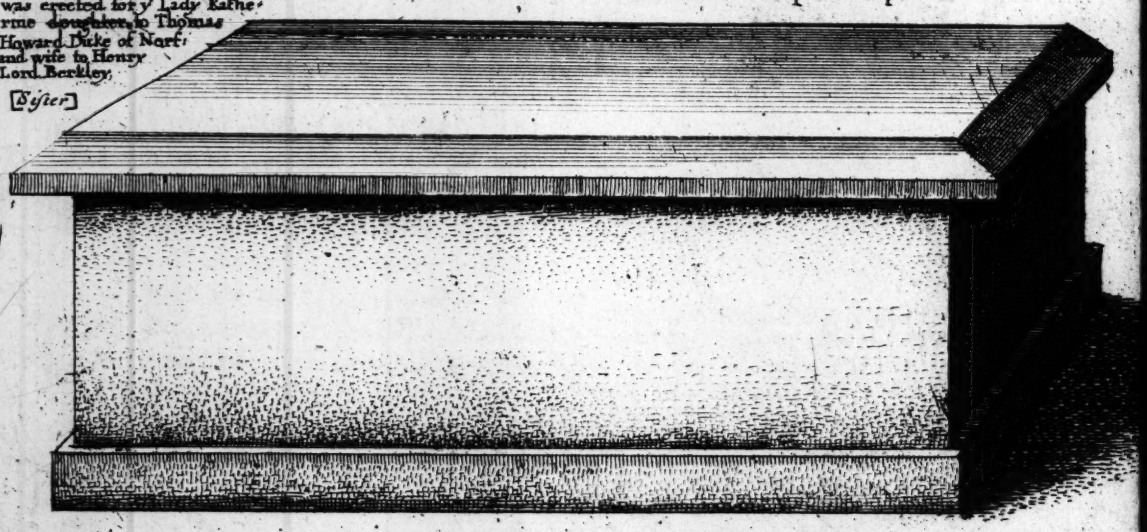


1 Earle Leofsike
2 France & England quartery
3 France
4 Treanton
5 Stafford
6 Savile
7 Bisdon
8
9
10 Redford
11 Alspath
12 Babington
13 Whittington impaling
14 Burghill
15 Fitzwarin
16
17 The Prince of Wales
18 Ric: Beauchamp E. of
19 Fitz-Alan E. of Arundel
20 Wilt: Beauchamp Le: B
impaling Fitz-Alan.

In the North Ile, called Draperv Chapell,

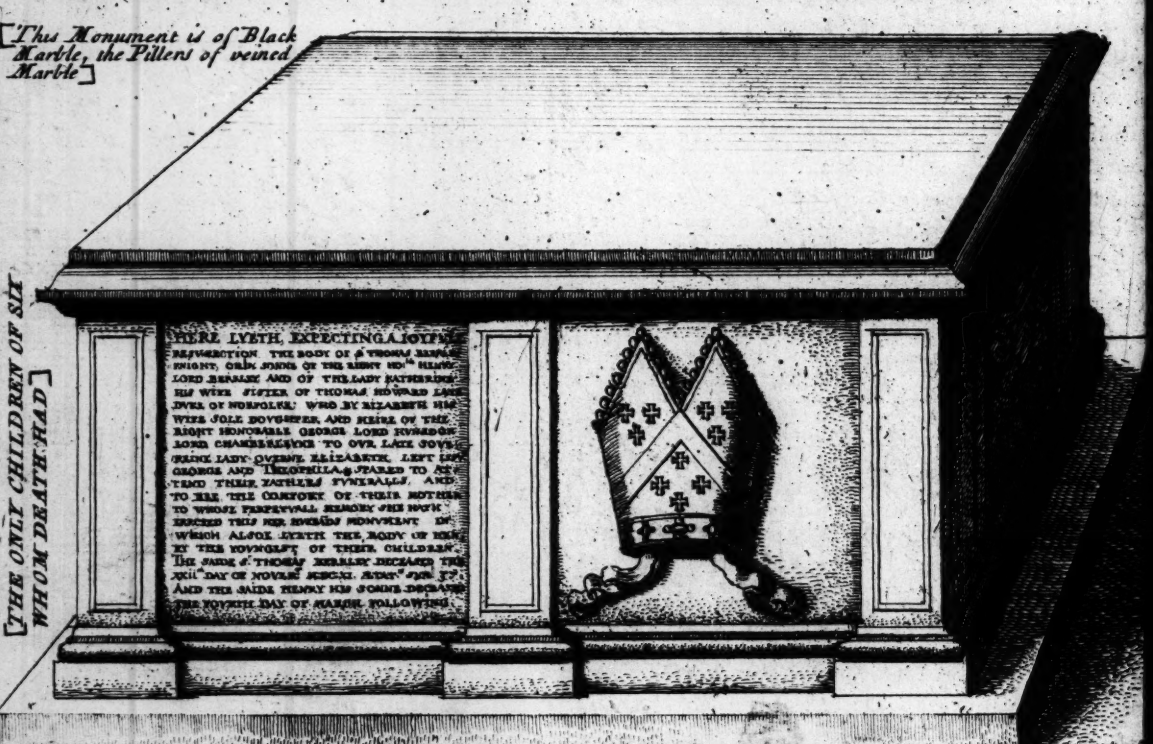
This monument of gray-marble whereon there is not inscription was erected for y^{e} Lady Katherine doughter to Thomas Howard Duke of Norf: and wife to Henry Lord Berkley,

[Sister]



[This Monument is of Black Marble, the Pillers of veined Marble]

[THE ONLY CHILDREN OF SIX WHOM DEATE HAD]



W. Hollar

Which Priors had Place in Parliament amongſt the Barons of this Realm, as appears by all the Writts of Summons in every Kings Raign.

The Succeſſion of the particular Mannours, which belong'd to this Religious Houſe, I have pointed at, as they lye in my Way: All therefore that I now have further to do in relation unto it, is to obſerve what became of the Site thereof; wherein I find, that K. *H.* 8. by his Pat. dated 28 *Julii*, 37. of his Reign granted it to *John Combes*, Gent. an *Rich. Stansfield*, and their Heirs, with divers Meſſ. Gardens, Mills, *&c.* thereto belonging, to hold in Free Burgage: From whom it came afterwards to *John Hales*, as it ſeemes: For I find, that in 15. *Eliz.* he dyed ſeiſed thereof, leaving *John* his Nephew, (*viz.* Son to his Brother *Chriſtopher*) his Heir: But none of that Family do now enjoy it.

Chantryes in, and adjoyning to, the Priory.

Leiceſter's Chantry.

THIS *Chantry* was founded in 2 E. 3. as appears by the Covenants for Ordination thereof made betwixt *Henry* the then Prior, and *Rob. de Leiceſter*, and *Will. de Leiceſter*, Canons of *Lichfield*; whereby the ſaid Prior doth undertake for himſelf and his Succeſſors to find two ſecular Prieſts to ſing Maſs daily in that Cathedrall at the Altar of the holy *Trinity*, the *bleſſed Virgin*, K. *Edward* the Confeſſor, *Edmund* Archb. of *Canterbury*, and *All-Saints*, ſtanding in the Body of the ſaid Church; for the good Eſtate of the ſame Church, and for the Soul of the before ſpecified Prior; as alſo for the Souls of *Henry* and *Letice*, Father and Mother of the ſaid Prior; *Robert* and *Will. de Leiceſter* above mentioned, *Geffrey* and *Elene* their Father and Mother; and of their Brethren and Siſters. And likewiſe for the Souls of Sir *Will. de Bereford*, Frere *Hugh de Rothwell*, *Walt. de Langton*, and *Roger Northburg*, then Biſhop of *Coventre* and *Lichfield*. But of this *Chantry*, all that I find more is, that upon the Survey taken in 26. H. 8. it was certified, that *Thomas Jackſon* and *William Pawden*, were then the Prieſts belonging thereto, each of which had a Stipend of 4. li. *per Annum* payd by the Prior, and were removable at his Pleaſure.

Copſton's Chantry.

THIS *Chantry*, adjoining to the Wall of the Priory, was founded by *Will. Copſton* in 19. E. 1. the Revenue of it, in 26. H. 8. being xi. li. viii. s. ii. d. *per Annum*, over and above Repriſes; and *Anthony Molineux*, Dr. of Divinity, then Warden thereof. It ſeems, that upon the Diſſolution of the Monaſtery in 30. H. 8. it was tranſlated into S. *Michaell's* Church; for there I find it in 37. H. 8. and of the clear yearly Value of xi. li. vii. s. ii. d. ob. above all Repriſes.

The next particular whereof I come to ſpeak, is the two large and beautifull Churches, dedicated the one to S. *Michaell*, the other to the holy *Trinity*; both which heretofore ſtood within the ſame Cimetery with the Priory Church.

S. Michaell's Church.

OF this, the firſt Mention that I find, is in K. *Stephen's* Time; for then did *Ranulph*, E. of *Cheſter* render it to the Monks of *Coventre*, by the Name of the Chappell of S. *Michaell*, being ſatisfied by the Teſtimony of divers Perſons, as well Clergy as Laytie, that it was their Right. Which Act of his, E. *Hugh* his Son and Succeſſor confirmed. Hereunto alſo did E. *Ranulph*, the laſt of that Name, give the Tythe of his Lands and Rents in *Coventre* for the Health of his Soul, and of his Anceſtors Souls; commanding all his Officers, upon Pain of a grievous Curſe to make due Payment

ment of them accordingly. What Colour of Right the Biſhop had in the Advouſon thereof I find not; but it ſeemes that a Claime he made thereto; ſo that in 32. H. 3. the Prior and he came to an Agreement: Whereupon the ſaid Prior, to purchaſe the Bps. Intereſt, parted with the perpetuall Patronage of the Churches of *Ruyton* and *Bobenhull*, then ſetling them upon the Cathedrall of *Lichfield*, whereof ſince that Time they have been Prebends. By which Accord it was concluded, that after the Deceaſes o each of thoſe Prieſts, then Incumbents of the particular Chappells belonging thereto, the Monks ſhould provide ſecular Prieſts, and other fit Miniſters to ſerve in the ſaid Chappells, and to allow them competent Maintenance. And, that to the Vicaridge of S. *Michall* ſhould, by the Biſhops Officiall and the Archdeacon, and two other diſcreet Men, on the Priors Part choſen and ſworn, be aſſigned, out of the Fruits of the ſaid Church, the Value of xxiv Marks *per Annum*.

And moreover that the Prior and Covent ſhould pay, out of the Fruits thereof to the Archdeacon of *Coventre*, for his *Procurations*, four Marks. And becauſe that the Cathedrall of *Lichfield*, had of antient Time uſed to have xxx. Marks yearly out of the Profits of this Church, it was by the ſame Agreement further concluded, that the ſame Summe ſhould be payd yearly thereto for the Time to come, at the Feaſts of S. *Michaell* and Eaſter, by even Portions out of the Rectory of *Southam*. the (Patronage whereof belong'd to the ſaid Monks). Which Accord bears Date at *Warwick* 3. *Kal. Julii Anno* 1248. (32. *H.* 3.) But in 44. *H.* 3. this Church was appropriated to the Monks; and in *Anno* 1291. 19. *E.* 1. with its Chappells, valued at 50. Marks; and the Vicaridge at 8. Marks and a Half.

The tall and beautifull Steeple, which, for its excellent Workmanſhip, and Height, is inferior to none in *England*, was more than xxii. Years in Building; being begun in *Anno* 1373. 47. *E.* 3. and finiſhed *Anno* 1395. 18. *R.* 2. But I find, that in 12. *H.* 6. there was a new Work begun upon this Church, yet what in particular I cannot directly ſay: Howbeit, by the Faſhion of the Building, do I conceive, that the whole Body of the Church, or the greateſt Part thereof, was then built in that Form we now behold it.

In 26. *H.* 8. the Vicaridge, before expreſt, was rated at 65 li. 10. s. 06. *per Annum*, out of which being then Annually paid 02. li.-15. s. 04. d. to the Archdeacon of *Coventre* for *Procurations* and *Synodals*: To the Prior of *Coventre* for an yearly Penſion c. s. and to the Dean and Chapter of *Lichfield* 33. s. 04 d. the clear Value amounted to 56.-li. 00-s. 10. d.

Patroni Vicariæ.	Incumbentes.
Prior. & Conv. de Coventre.	*Magr. Will. de Billeſlege* 6. *Non. Martii* 1296.
	Joh. de Kent Diac. 7. *Id. Junii* 1323.
	Will. del Peek Pbr. 15. *Cal. Sept.* 1361.
	Rob. de Wentbrigg. Pbr. 14 *Cal. Dec.* 1362.
	Thom. de Stanley Pbr. 1388.
	Joh. de Lodelawe Pbr. 1388.
	Thom. Stanley Pbr. 7. *Oct.* 1395.
	Thom. de Tutterbury Cap. 6. *Febr.* 1402.
	Joh. Wakering Cap. 9. *Martii* 1402.
	Will. Glym 29. *Julii* 1409.
	Rob. Threſk Cap. 10. *Jan.* 1418.
Prior. & Conv. de Coventre.	*Ric. Leiet leg. D.* 19. *Nov.* 1419.
	Joh. Heyworth, in decret. Baccalar. 10. *Dec.* 1431.
	Will. Glym, 22 *Jan.* 1436.
	Tho. Worſhop, alias Cheſterfield, in decr. bacc. 19. *Jun.* 1441.
	Tho. Egmond, art. medicinæq; Dr. 23. *Oct.* 1457.
	Margr. Joh. Veyſy leg. Dr. 26. *Apr.* 1507.
	D. Georg. 6. *Maii.* 1520.
D. Rex, ratione advoc. ejuſd. per Geo. Com. Hunt. & Fr. Haſtings, fil. & hær. dicti Com. (per Pr. & Conv. de Cov. iiſdem dat.) ſibi conceſs.	*Arth. Dudley Cler. Capellanus D. Regis* 6. *Febr* 1537.
	Jo. Ramridg Cler. 7. *Febr.*

Pr.

r. & Conv. de Covcn-tre. dw. 6. Rex. Angl.	1538. Hugo Symon, sacræ Theol. bacc. 17. Martii 1552. Will. Ireland Cleric. 22. Sept. 1577.	Eliz. Regina. Jacobus Rex.	Will. Hinton Cler. S. Theo. Bacc. 26 Mar. 1583. Sam. Buggs cler. S. Theol. bacc. 4. Nov. 1623.

Monumentall Inſcriptions in this Church.

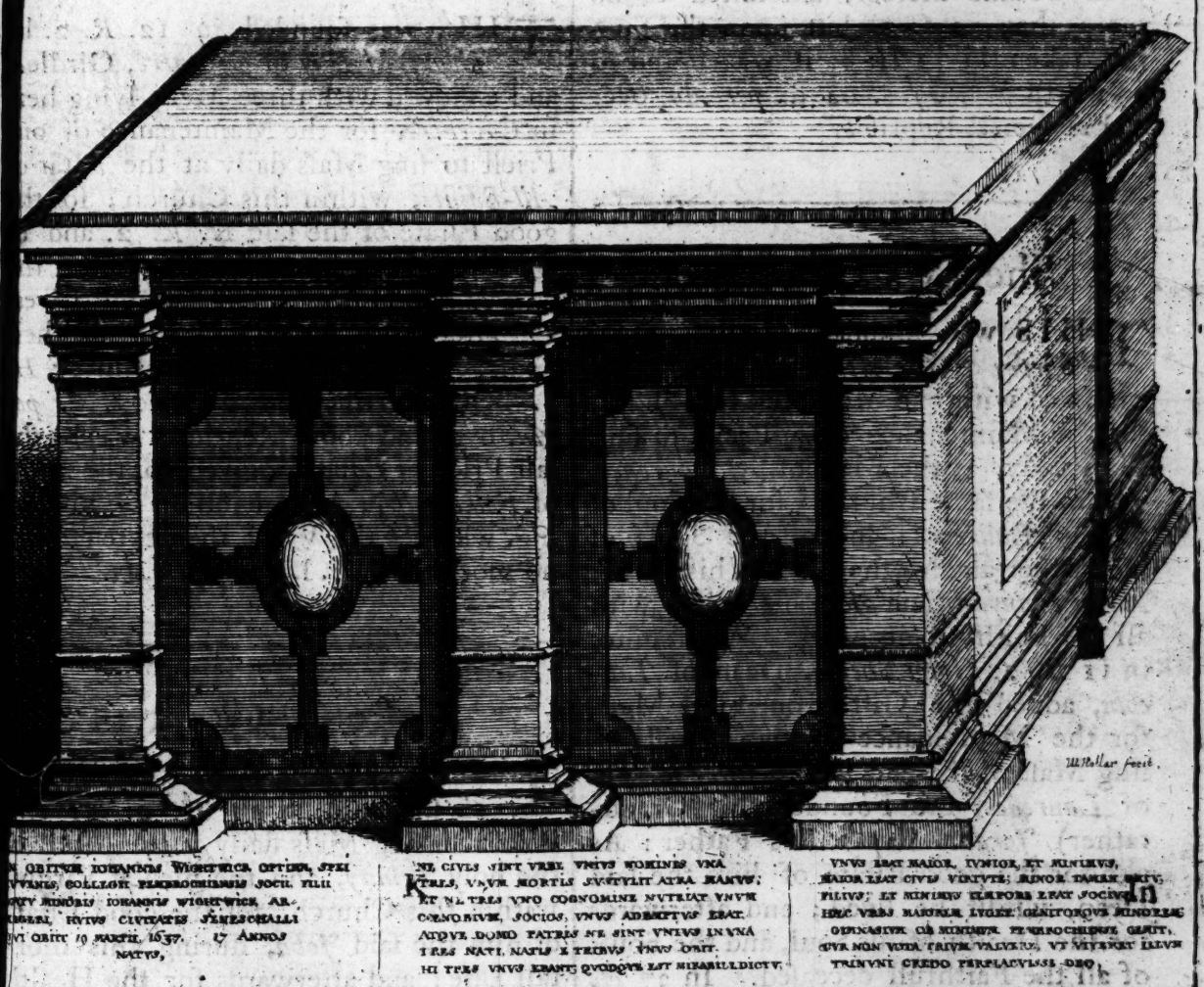
In Drapers Chappell, upon a plain raiſed Monument.

Hic jacet Julianus Nethermyll proſtratus
Quondam Major huius Civitatis, qui obiit
i. die menſis Aprilis anno Domini M. D.
rrix. & Johana uroꝛ eius, quorum Animabus ꝓpitietur Deus, Amen.

In Mercers Chappell, on a fair Monument, whereupon are the Statues of a Man in Armour and his two Wives.

Orate pro anima Elizabethe Swillington, nuper uroꝛis
Radulphi Swillington attoꝛnati generalis Domini regis Henrici
Octavi, Recoꝛdatoꝛis Civitatis Coventrie, uroꝛis Thome
Eſſex armigeri: Que quidem Elizabetha obiit.....

In the North Ile.



OBIIT IOHANNES WIGHTWICK OPTIMUS, SPEI
VVENIS, COLLEGII PEMBROCHIENSIS SOCII. FILII
NATU MINORIS IOHANNIS WIGHTWICK, AR-
MIGERI, HUIUS CIVITATIS SENESCHALLI
QUI OBIIT 19 MARTII, 1637. 17 ANNOS
NATUS,

NE CIVES SINT VRBI VNIVS NOMINIS VNA
TRIBVS, VNVS MORTIS EVITABILIT AERA MANVS;
ET NE TRES VNO CONNOMINE NVTRIAT VNVS
CONNOBIVM, SOCIOS, VNVS ADSCRIPTVS ERAT.
ATQVE DOMO PATRIS NE SINT VNIVS IN VNA
TRES NATI, NATIS E TRIBVS VNVS OBIT.
HI TRES VNVS ERANT; QVODQVE EST MIRABILE DICTV,

VNVS ERAT MAIOR, IVNIOR, ET MINIMVS,
MAIOR ERAT CIVIS VIRTVTE; MINOR TAMEN ARTV,
FILIVS; ET MINIMVS TEMPORE ERAT SOCIVS.
HIC VERE MAIORES LVGET GENITORQVE MINORES
ORNAVIT OB MINIMVM PEMBROCHIROSE GENIT,
QVEM NON VITA TRIVM, VALVERIT, VT VIVERET ILLVM
TRINVM CREDO PERPLACVISSE DEO.

In this Church of St. *Mich.* were divers Chantries, founded by severall Persons, and endowed with Lands or some yearly Revenue, for the Maintenance of one or more Priests, daily to sing Mass for the Souls of the Donors, or such whom they did appoint.

Merynton's Chantry.

THIS was founded by *Hugh de Merynton* in 17 *E.* 2. and consisted of two Priests, to sing Mass daily for the Health of his Soul, and of *Agnes* his Wife: As also for the Souls of his Ancestors and all the Faithfull deceased; being endow'd with 8*l.* yearly Rent, for that Purpose; Yet in 26 H. 8. the clear yearly Value thereof, amounted to no more than an C. s. but upon the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. it was found to be worth 7. l. 09. s.-04. d. *per An.* over and above all Reprises.

Shepey's Chantry.

THIS was founded by *Laurence Shepey* of *Coventre*, in 4 *E.* 3. & endowed with one Mess, and two Shops, for the Maintenance of a Priest to sing Mass daily, at the Altar of St. *Laurence*, within the same Church; for the Soul of the said *Laurence*; and of the Souls of his Father and Mother; *Maud* his Wife; *Adam Stanydelf* and *Alice* his Wife, with all the Faithfull deceased. Whereunto, in 11 *R.* 2. *John Shepey*, Dean of *Lincoln*, added the Gift of one more Mess. for the Maintenance of two Priests to sing Mass at the said Altar, for the Soul of *Laurence*, the Founder (his Grandfather) *Jordan Shepey*, his Father: As also for the good Estate of him the said Dean, whilst he lived; and afterwards for the Health of his Soul, and the Souls of all the Faithfull deceased. In 37 *H.* 8. the Value thereof, certified at 59. s.-07 d. *per An.* was allowed by the last Prior of *Coventre* to the Curat of *Sow*, in Augmentation of his Salary; in regard that the small Tythes of *Sow* that were all he had for his Maintenance were then worth but six Pounds *per An.*

After this, *viz.* in 45 *E.* 3. *John de Burgh*, Priest, *Will. Liberd*, *John de Pountfreit*, *Ranulph*, *Palmer*, and *Thomas Yelvertoft*, gave two Mess. with the Appurtenances here in *Coventre*, for the Maintenance of a Priest to sing Mass daily at the Altar of the blessed Virgin, within this Church, for the Souls of *Henry Dilcock*, and *Margery* his Wife; *Robert de Watton* and *Maud* his Wife; and of *Will. de Shepey* and *Alice* his Wife.

Haye's Chantry.

THIS was founded in 12. *R.* 2. by *Henry del Hay* of *Coventre*, Girdler, and endow'd with three Mess. lying here in *Coventre*, for the Maintenance of one Priest to sing Mass daily at the Altar of *All-Saints*, within this Church; for the good Estate of the said K. *R.* 2. and Q. *Anne* his Consort; as also of him the said *Henry*, during their naturall Lives and afterwards for the Health of their Souls. The Revenue whereof in 37 *H.* 8. being certified at 21 .s.-07. d. *per An.* over and above Reprises, was by the last Prior of *Coventre* given to the Vicar of *Folkeshull* in Augmentation of his living, whereof the Value then extended to no more then 03. l.-18 s. *per An.*

Preston's Chantry.

THIS was founded by *John Preston* of *Coventre* in 13 *H.* 4. for two Priests to sing Mass daily at the Altars of the holy *Trinity*, and the blessed Virgin, within this Church, for the good Estate of him the said *John*, during this mortall Life; and afterwards for the Health of his Soul; as also for the Souls of his Parents and Benefactors, and all the Faith-

Faithfull deceaſed; and endowed with ſix Meſs. and one Shop, with a Chamber over it, ſituat here in *Coventre*. All which in 26 H. 8. were valued at 05. l. 09. s. *per An.* over and above Repriſes: But in 37 H. 8. at no more then 04. l. 06. s. 11. d. *per An.*

Croſſes Chantry.

IN 13 *H.* 4. *John Scarburgh, Philip Baron, Laurence Coke,* and *Thomas Henryes,* gave 5. Meſs. and 04. l. 06. s. 06. d. Rent. *per An.* lying here in *Coventre,* to the Mayor and Commonalty of this City, and their Succeſſors for ever, to find a certain Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily, at the Altar of St. *Katherine* within the ſaid Church, for the good Eſtate of the ſame K. *Henry,* during this Life; and for his Soul after his Departure hence: As alſo for the Soul of *John Croſſe,* late Merchant of *Coventre,* and the Souls of all the Faithfull deceaſed: But when this Chantry was diſſolved or altered, I find not.

Pyſeford's Chantry.

THIS was founded by one *Will. Pyſeford,* and endowed with Lands, for to find one Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily within this Church; and to maintain ſix poor Men and their Wives, ſuch as had been honeſt Houſe-holders, and were fallen to decay, within the City; *viz.* 07. d. *ob.* a Week to every Couple, to pray for the Souls of the ſaid *William* and his Parents for ever: Howbeit, the certain Time of its Foundation I have not ſeen; but the Lands and Tenements thereunto belonging, being, by the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. valued at 26. l. 09. s. *per An.* the Prieſt had out of it 6. l. yearly for his Salary; the Reſidue being for the Maintenance of the before ſpecified poor People, and Diſcharge of other Payments concerning the ſaid Lands and Chantry.

The Taylor's and Sherman's Chantry.

OF this Chantryes Foundation, I find nothing: But in the Survey of 26 H. 8. it was certified to be of the clear yearly Value of 02. l. 16. s. 6. *d. ob. per An.* over and above all Repriſes.

Tate's Chantry.

HEREOF, all that I have met with, is onely, that there was an yearly Stipend of Cvi. s. viii. d. payd to a Chantry-Prieſt, ſinging Maſs daily in this Church of St. *Mich.* by the Company of Dyers in the City of *London.*

Marler's Chantry.

IT doth not very clearly appear, that this Chantry was in St. *Mich.* Church: But in regard that there be Circumſtances, which make it probable, I have fixt it ſo. It was founded by one *Ric. Marler,* as his laſt Will doth manifeſt; by which he aſſigned certain Rents to be yearly received by the Wardens of this City, for the Time being, to find a Prieſt to ſing daily Maſs in a Chappell, built over the Grave of him the ſaid *Richard,* for the Health of his Soul and all Chriſten-Souls; and to keep divine Service in the Quire; whoſe Stipend was nine Marks *per An.* But the Foundation of it, is of no Antiquity; for there were no more than two Chantry-Prieſts ſucceſſively belonging thereto; *viz. Henry Marler,* and *Ric. Branker*; which *Ric.* was living in 37 H. 8.

Trinity Church.

OF this, the firſt Mention I find, is of it's Appropriation to the Priory in 44 H. 3. In *An.* 1291. 19 *E.* 1. it was valued

valued at xx. Marks, and the Vicaridge at two Marks: But in 26 *H.* 8. the ſaid Vicaridge was rated at 33. l. 1. s. 6. d. *ob. per An.* out of which iſſued a *Penſion* of C. s. to the Prior; xvi. s. in *Procurations* and *Synodals*; and to the Church-wardens, for a Quit-Rent, yearly, for the Vicaridge-Houſe xx. s. ſo that the clear yearly Value, deducting the Repriſes, amounted to xxvi. l. v. s. vi. d.

Patroni Vicariæ.	Incumbentes.
Prior & Conv. de Coventre.	*Henr. de Harenhale* 10. *Cal. Apr.* 1298.
	Joh. de Holland 2. *Non. Sept.* 1334.
	Joh. Greneburgh Cler. 4. *Id. Jan.* 1346
	Egid. Fillilod Cap. Non. Sept. 1349.
	Will. Swet Pbr. 8. *Mail* 1380.
	Joh. de Amcotes Pbr. 12. *Martii* 1381.
	Will. Gamell Pbr. 16. *Oct.* 1383.
Ric. Humfrey dom-icellus.	*Nich. Croſby Cap.* 15. *Jan.* 1421.
	Joh. Meneley Pbr. 20. *Dec.* 1443.
Pr. & Conv. de Coventre.	*Tho. Orton in decr. bacc. an.* 1508.
	Nich. Darington S. Theol. bacc. 23. *Jan.* 1527.
Dom. Rex.	*Will. Benet Cler.* 5. *Nov.* 1546.
Domina Regina.	*Geo. Brooche in art. Mag.* 8. *Aug.* 1554.
	Geo. Cheſton 6. *Apr.* 1568.
	Antb. Fletcher Cler. 4. *Maii* 1576.
	Humf. Fenne Cler. 21 *Febr.* 1577.
	Ric. Eaton Cler. 12. *Jan.* 1590.
Jacobus Rex.	*Tho. Cooper S. Theol. bacc.* 8. *Maii* 1604.
	Sam. Gibſon Cler. 2. *Jan.* 1610.
	Joh. Staresmore in art. Mag. 15. *Maii* 1618.
	Sam. Buggs S. Theol. bacc. 20. *Junii* 1626.

Monumental Inſcriptions in this Church.

On the South Wall of the Quire.

EPITAPHIUM

DOCTORIS HOLLANDI A SEIPSO CONFECTUM qui obiit 9. die Februarii 1636. Et 85. ætatis ſuæ.

NEMO habet hic, nemon? hoſpes ſalveto, Philemon
Holland hâc recubat ritè repoſtus humo:
Si quæras ratio quænam ſit nominis, hæc eſt,
Totus terra fui, terraque totus ero:
At redivivus morte tuâ ſervabor Jeſu,
Una fides votis hæc eſt via ſola ſalutis,
Hâc ſpe fretus ego, culpâ, pœnâque ſolatus,
Jamque renatus, & inde novo conſpectus amictu,
Cœtu in Sanctorum poſt redimitus ero.
Claudicat inceſſu ſenior mea Muſa, vides ne?
Claudatur capulo mecum ſimul ipſa: valeto.

Valedictio

Ad liberos & nepotes ſuperſtites.

Dantque omnes unâ dudum de ſtirpe creati
Henrice ah! ſeptem de fratribus une ſuperſtes;
O ephanici fratris Gulielmi nuper adempti
Et mihi (bis puero) nutricis, Anna, Maria
Cumque tuis Angelis Elizabeta; valete.

Gulielmus filius ſexto-genitus, Chirurgus Conventrenſis hic etiam jacet ſepultus 1632. ætatis ſuæ 40. Henricus filius & hæres civis Londinenſis P. 54. ætatis ſuæ 1647.

On the ſame South Wall.

Carmen in obitum chariſſimi Johannis Whithed, quondam prætoris hujus civitatis digniſſimi.

ROMA Numam jactat decorat Lacedemona priſcam
Iuſſa Therapneus jura Lycurgus agens
Non minor eſt nobis, præciſo ſtamine vitæ
Qui jacet hic clauſus lumine caſſus humo
Virtutis curſu conſtans athleta Jehovæ
O quam longè aberat ſubdola Græca fides
Mortuus ante diem, proh ſævo funere raptus
Tempore Præturæ mortuus ante diem
Tempore Præturæ tribus & plus partibus anni
Officio functus ſcandet in aſtra poli.

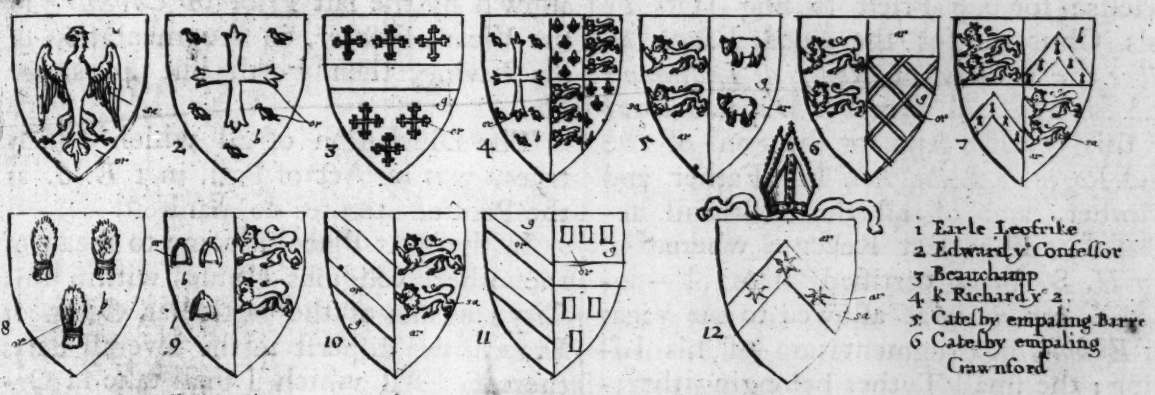
On a Grave-Stone, near the ſame Wall.

HÆC ANNA CLARIS. NUPER CONIUX DOCTORIS Hollandi, filia fuit Gulielmi Bot alias Peyton, quondam

dam de Perry-hall in Com. Staff. armig.

HIC Recubat dilecta Philemonis uxor Holandi,
Anna, pudicitiæ non ulli laude ſecunda,
Quadraginta octoque annos quæ nupta marito,
Septem illi pueros enixa eſt, treſque puellas,
Lactavitque omnes, genitrix eadem eſt pia nutrix;
Septuaginta duos vitæ numeraverat annos;
Lætatis, crebros morbi cum paſſa labores,
Omnibus, & defuncta mali, in pace quievit
Quodque unum potui, ſupremi pignus amoris
Filius hoc dedit Henricus ad carmina marmor.
Sancta vixit,
Sancta obiit
In feſto omnium Sanctorum:
In cœlum Sanctorum tranſmigravit 1627.
In reſurrectione Sanctorum reſurget.

Coventre
Armes in the Windows of Trinity Church,



1 Earle Leofrike
2 Edward y^e Confeſſor
3 Beauchamp
4 K. Richard y^e 2.
5 Cateſby empaling Barre
6 Cateſby empaling Grawnford
7 Cateſby quartering Lodbrok
8 Earle of Cheſter
9 Purefry empaling Cateſby
10 Fitzwith empaling Cateſby
11. Fitzwith empaling Beauchamp of Holt
12

[*Theſe are all gone*]

Percye's Chantry.

THIS, being the antienteſt Chantry of any that were founded in *Trinity* Church, was endow'd in 23 *E.* 3. by *Nich. Percy*, *John de Fylingley*, and *Henry Mollyng*, with ſix Meſs. one Shop, ſix Acres of Land and 40. s. Rent, lying in *Coventre*, for the Maintenance of one Prieſt to ſing Maſs dayly at the Altar of *All-Saints*, for the good Eſtate of the ſaid *Nich.* and *Beatrice* his Wife; and of *John Percy*, Prieſt, whilſt they ſhould live in this World; and for their Souls after their Departure hence: As alſo for the Souls of *Io.n Percy*, and *Peter Percy*; and of the Father and Mother of the ſaid *Nicholas*, with all the Faithfull deceaſed. But afterwards was there another Prieſt added thereto, towards whoſe Maintenance in 9 *H.* 4. *Will. Botoner*, *Iohn Egeſton* the Elder, and *Iohn Drye* of *Coventre*, Prieſt, gave one Meſs. and 24. Acres of Land lying in this City. The Value of all which, was in 26 *H.* 8. certified to be 10. l. 10. s. *per An.* over and above Repriſes: But upon the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. 11. l.-19 s.-08. d.

The Chantry of the Holy Croſs.

THIS was founded in 30 *E.* 3. by *Will. de Davyntre*, *Henry Molling*, *Rob. le Spenſer*, *Gilb. de Peek*, *Ric. de Fillyngley*, *Iohn Luk*, *Ric. de Godeſvowes*, *Ric. de Northampton*, *Geffrey de Peek*, *Iohn le Baxtere*, *Henry de Whitemore*, *Adam de Kereſleye*, and *Ric. Teynton* of *Coventre*, for two Prieſts to ſing Maſs dayly at the Altar of the *Holy Croſs*, in this Church, for the good Eſtate of K. *Edw.* the 3. and of *Iſabell*, Q. of *Engl.* his Mother; Q. *Philipa* his Conſort, and of all their Children. As alſo for the good Eſtate of the ſaid *Will. Henry*, and the reſt aforementioned: And likewiſe of all the Brethren and Siſters of the Fraternity of the *Holy Croſs* of *Coventre*, whilſt they lived, and

and for their Souls after their deceaſe: And for the Souls of all the ſaid K. Progenitors; and of the Anceſtors of the ſaid *Will. de Davyntre, &c.* For the Maintenance of which two Prieſts, they gave 7. Meſs. 14. Shops, and ſix Acres of Land, lying in this City.

Lodyngton's Chantry.

THIS was founded in 16 *R.* 2. by *Will. Haynton*, and *John Bromcote*, Prieſts; for one Prieſt to ſing Maſs in this Church, for the good Eſtate of *Alice* the Widow of *Roger de Lodynton*; and for her Soul after her Departure out of this World: And for the Soul of the ſaid *Roger de Lodington*, his Father and Mother, and of all the Faithfull deceaſed. The clear Revenue whereof in 37 *H.* 8. being certified at 02. l.--oo-03. d. *per An.* was allowed to the Vicar of *Exhall*, in Augmentation of his Living; the ſmall Tythes belonging thereto, extending to no more than 03. l.-06.s. 08. d. *per An.*

Corpus-Chriſti Chantry.

ALL that I find of this *Chantry*, is that the Prior of *Coventre* preſented three Prieſts unto it ſucceſſively in *E.* 3. Time: But when it was founded, by whom, or how diſſolved, I cannot ſay.

Alleſley's Chantry.

THIS was founded by one *Will. de Alleſley*, in *E.* 1. Time; for one Prieſt to ſing Maſs daily, at the Altar of S. *Thomas* the Martyr, in a Chappell near adjoyning to the Church-porch; the clear yearly Value of all the Rents belonging thereto, over and above Repriſes, being, in 26 *H.* 8. certified at 04. l.-17. s. but in 37 *H.* 8. at 04. l. 08. s.-06. d.

Cellet's Chantry.

THIS was founded by one *Will. Cellet* in *E.* 3. Time; for one Prieſt to ſing Maſs dayly for the Soul of the ſaid *Will.* and his Parents: But I find no more than one onely Prieſt preſented to it by the Prior of *Coventre*; *ſcil.* 4. *Cal. Oct.* 1356. And, that in 37 *H.* 8. the clear yearly Value thereof being certified at 03. l.-04. d.-*ob. per An.* was allow'd by the laſt Prior of *Coventre* to the Vicar of *Stoke*, in Augmentation of his Living, then worth but 40. s. *per An.*

The Diſſolution of all which Chantryes, was by Act of Parl. in 1 *E.* 6. as the Printed Statutes do manifeſt.

In the next Place I come to ſpeak of the other Religious-Houſes within this City; as alſo of the particular Gilds or Fraternities diſperſt in the ſeverall Parts thereof. All which I ſhall take in Order, according to their Antiquities.

St. John's Hoſpitall.

THIS was firſt founded by *Laurence*, Prior of *Coventre*, and his Covent about the Beginning of *H.* 2. Time, at the Requeſt of *Edmund* then Archdeacon of *Coventre*, *ad ſuſceptionem pauperum & infirmorum*, as the Words of the Grant import; which *Edm.* procured a Confirmation thereof from *Ric.* Archb. of *Cant.* (*T. Becket*'s Succeſſor) and was at Charge of the Buildings. In *An.* 1221. (5 *H.* 3.) Pope *Honorius* the 3. by his Bull dated at Lateran 15. *Cal. Junii*, granted unto the Friers of this Hoſpitall a ſpeciall Protection as to their Perſons and Poſſeſſions; and by Name for their Land at *Smercote* (in *Bedworth*-Pariſh) which, as 'tis like, was given them at the Foundation of their Houſe.

The firſt of their other Benefactors, whereof our publick Records do take Notice

Notice, were *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecilie* his Wife; who, in 33 *H.* 3. upon their Grant of the Mannour of *Coventre* to the Monks in Fee-ferme (whereof I have formerly ſpoke) reſerved a Cart Load of Wood every Week out of the Woods belonging to *Coventre*, to be delivered by the Foreſters of the Pr. and Covent, for the Time being, unto the Friers of this Hoſpitall. After which they obtain'd of K. *H.* 3. Letters of Protection, bearing Date 24. *Julii*, 45 *H.* 3. extending the ſame likewiſe to ſuch their Meſſengers as they ſhould imploy and ſend abroad to receive Almes for their Behoof: Who in that Pat. recommended their Condition to be ſo far tendred by all they ſhould ſo repair unto, as they might expect to be rewarded from God, and have Thanks of him. As alſo ſeverall Bulls from *P. Urban* the 4. and 5. of Immunities from all ſecular Exactions. And by other Benefactors had, as followeth; *viz.* 4. Meſs. 2. Acres and a Half of Wood, and 20. s. Rent, lying in *Coventre* and *Bedworth*, given by *Bernard de Arley*, 1 *E.* 3. Twenty Acres of Land 1. Rood of Medow, and 30. s. Rent, in *Stonley*, *Harnale*, and *Coventre*, by *Nich. Crumpe* of *Coventre*, 2 *E.* 3. Three Meſs. 6. Acres of Land, and Half an Acre of Medow, lying in *Coventre* and *Corley*, by *Ric. Southam*, Prieſt. And 5. more Meſs. lying in *Coventre*, by *Henry Page* of *Welleſborough*, 15 *E.* 3. Four Meſs. and 11. s. Rent in *Coventre*, by *John de Filungley*, Prieſt, 21 *E.* 3. One Meſs. in *Coventre*, by *John de Melton*, Prieſt, *John Smyth*, Hoſyer, and *Tho. Marchall* 6 *R.* 2. Four Meſs. 5. Shops and 12. d. Rent in *Coventre*, by *Hugh de Geydon*, Vicar of *Merton*, and *Will. Suwett*, Parſon of *Southam*, 9 *R.* 2. Four Meſs. 40. Acres of Land, and 20. s. Rent in *Coventre*, with two Acres of Wood in *Bedworth*. As alſo five Meſs. twelve Cotages and eight Shops, in *Coventre* likewiſe, given by the ſaid *Will. Suwett*, and *Hugh Geydon*, in 16 *R.* 2. And beſides all this, an Allowance in Bread, Beer, and two Meſſes of Meat, as much as was ſufficient for two Monks, every Day, given by the Monks of *Coventre* to them at the Foundation of this Hoſpitall.

Other Lands and Rents they had, as is evident by the Survey, taken in 26 *H.* 8. but when, or by whom beſtowed I have not ſeen; the Value of all being then certified to extend unto 99. l.-13. s.-06. d. *per An.* Out of which I will onely inſtance ſuch of their Repriſes as are moſt obſervable; *viz.* 33. s.-04. d. yearly to the Mayor and Chamberleyns of this City, towards the Repair of the Walls: 26. s. *per An.* in Bread and Beer given to poor People at the Gate of the Hoſpitall, by the Ordinance and Foundation thereof: 60. s. yearly in renewing of 20. Beds, for Entertainment of poor and weak People; as alſo of Strangers: 16. l. *per An.* for the Stipend of three Prieſts ſerving there, *viz.* 05. l. 06. s.-08. a-piece. All which, with the other Deductions not mentioned, amounting to 32. l.-10. s. 04. d. *per An.* leave the clear yearly Value, as it was at that Time certified, 67. l.-03. s.-02. d.

But this Hoſpitall (with moſt elſe of the ſame Kind) being diſſolved in the Parl. of 37 *H.* 8. was, by the ſaid K. Letters Pat. dated 23 *Julii* the ſame Year, with all the Lands and Poſſeſſions thereunto belonging, granted unto *John Hales*, Gent. and his Heirs; which *John*, being an active Man in thoſe Days and Clerk of the Hamper (an Office then of no ſmall Benefit) and having accumulated a great Eſtate in Monaſtery and Chantry-Lands, reſolved to erect a laſting Monument to his Memory (for he had neither Child nor Wife) and thereupon, deſigning the Foundation of a Free-School here, and that the King ſhould have the Honour thereof, (for which Reſpect he had no little Favour in his Purchaſes, as I have credibly heard) obtaind Licence for the amortizing of Lands thereto, of CC. Marks *per An.* Value, converting the Buildings to that Uſe; on the Front whereof is this following Inſcription.

SCHOLA

SCHOLA REGIS HENRICI OCTAVI A JOHANNE HALES Armigero fundata, in qua bonis literis imbuantur pueri, uſque ad conſummationem ſæculi in Chriſti gloriam, & Eccleſiæ ædificationem.

Howbeit, till the 15 of Q. *Eliz.* Reign, (which was the Year wherein he dyed) this School, ſo by him begun to be founded, was not certainly endowed But then did his Executors, *viz. Thomas Docura* of *Offeley* in Com. *Hertf.* Eſq. and *Bartholomew Hales* of *Snytterfeld* in this County of *War.* Gent. in Accompliſhment of the Truſt repoſed in them by the ſaid *John*, by their Deed dated 5 *Martii*, convey and aſſure unto the Mayor, Bayliffs and Commonalty of this City, the Site of the ſaid Hoſpitall and Lands thereto appertaining, with divers Meſſ. Gardens, *&c.* lying alſo in *Coventre*, and belonging to the late diſſolved Priories of *Coventre* and *Kenilworth*; together with certain Mills, called the *White Frier-Mill*, *Baſtile-Mill*, and *Hill-Mill*; to the Intent, that, out of the Profits of the Premiſſes, the Sum of xx. l. yearly ſhould be payd to an able Schoolmaſter for to teach Grammar in the ſaid School; and x. *l.* to an Uſher, (the Schoolmaſter having for his Habitation the Manſion-Houſe wherein the late Maſter of the ſaid Hoſpitall did dwell, and the Uſher another Houſe, within the Site of the ſaid Hoſpitall.) Lii. s. *per An.* to a Muſique-Maſter, for to teach at three convenient Times in every Week ſo many of the Schollars of the ſame School, to Sing, as ſhould be willing to learn: And to a Bayliff to gather up the ſaid Rents, and ſee the Houſes kept in Reparations xxvi. s. viii. d. yearly; the Reſidue to be imployed in repayring of the ſame Houſes, and the Overplus to augment the Living of the ſaid School-maſter and Uſher.

The Gray-Friers.

THE Place where this *quondam* Religious Houſe ſtood, is very well known to all that have obſerved any Thing of *Coventre*; in Regard the Spire-Steeple, which was Part thereof, is yet ſtanding, giving Occaſion unto Strangers that paſs through the Town, to think that there is ſtill a Church in that Place. But before I deſcend to ſpeak in particular of this Friery, it will be proper, (I conceive) to ſay ſomething of their Order, in generall; and next of their Propagation in this Kingdom.

Firſt therefore, as to their Originall, we ſhall find, that St. *Francis* (a Perſon famous for his ſtrict and holy Life) was the Man from whom this Order ſprung; whoſe Birth-Place (being of a noble Extraction) is ſaid to have been at Aſſiſe in Umbria (a Province of Italy). And that, in the very Time of his Youth, betaking himſelf to divine Studies, no Whit regarding the tranſitory Pleaſures of this preſent World, he afterwards neglected his Patrimony, which was not ſmall, wore a Coul and Hair-Shirt, went bare-foot, and macerated himſelf with frequent Watches and Faſtings. As alſo, to the Intent that he might make Choice of voluntary Poverty, he reſolved to enjoy nothing as his own, no not ſo much a Food for his Body, otherwiſe than what he received in Almes from good People. And moreover, if he had any Thing left, after a ſlender Refreſhment, he ever beſtow'd it on the Poor, reſerving nothing for the Morrow. That, in the Night Time, he always ſlept in his Cloaths, lying down upon a Matt, having no Pillow for his Head but a Stone: And thus, going barefoot with an Evangelique Preparation, did embrace an Apoſtolique Life, preaching upon Sundays and Feſtivalls in Pariſh-Churches; which

which did ſo much the more work upon the Hearts of his Auditory, by how much he was a Stranger to all carnall Deſires. The Statutes of which Order, to this Day obſerved, together with ſome other ſtrict Rules, he preſented to Pope *Innocent* the Third: Which, together with the Circumſtances of his Reception, and their Confirmation, I ſhall for Brevity paſs by; and the rather for that they are at large ſet forth by my Author, and confirm'd by the ſaid Pope, in the Year of Chriſt 1207. (9. *Ioh.*)

To this Relation I ſhall briefly adde what a later Author hath of him, *viz.* that when he firſt betook himſelf to this regular Life, he wore Shoos and a Lethern Girdle; but revolving in his Mind, that our bleſſed Saviour gave Command to his Apoſtles, that they ſhould not have two Coats, nor any Purſe, he put on a ſingle Coat of plain Wool, girt himſelf with a Cord, and went barefoot. And at the length, that he might live an Anchorite, betook himſelf to the *Apenine*-Mountains, and in Averne (at the Foot of them) continued in great Solitude; where devoting himſelf wholy to divine Contemplations, he branded his Body with the Marks of our Lords Paſſion, and called thoſe *Minors* which he choſe, from the firſt, to be his Companions in that Rule, as a manifeſt Token of his Humility; to the End that they, being mindfull of that ſlender Appellation, ſhould be free from all Pride, which is oft times the Companion of Sanctity.

His Rule being confirmed by *Honorius* the third; and two Years after, *viz.* *An.* 1229. *Gregory* the ix. canonizing him for a Saint, no humane Inſtitution increaſed ſo much as this, in a ſhort Time, did: For they were ſoon ſpread over the whole Chriſtian World; *Terram repleverunt* ſaith *Math. Weſtm.* In Towns and Cities they dwelt by tens and ſeavens in a Covent; and poſſeſſing nothing, but meerly living by the Goſpell, in Food and Rayment they manifeſted their voluntary Poverty; and going barefoot, girt with a knotty Cord, gave the greateſt Example of Humility imaginable.

Touching their firſt comming into *England*, I find it was in *An.* 1224. 8 *H.* 3. *viz.* two Years before the Death of S. *Francis:* But how well the Monks lik't of it, let us hear one of them ſpeak, *An.* 1224. *Oh dolor! O plus quam dolor! O peſtis truculenta! Fratres Minores venerunt in Angliam.* For which grievous Complaint I need not look further, as to the Reaſon, than *Math. Weſtm.* who modeſtly gives this Character of them. They were diligent Inſtruments for the Pope in all his Affairs (ſaith he) ſometimes as Meſſengers or Legats; ſometimes in gathering up Taxes, alwaies ſedulous for his Advantage; neither were they ſlack in Preaching, ſigning with the Croſs, and aſſiſting the Sick in making of their Teſtaments; which Imployment did not a little hinder the Monks, both in Point of Profit and Power.

I come now to ſpeak of their fixing here, in *Coventre.* That they had not any Charter of Foundation for this Houſe; nor indeed any formall Grant in Writing of the Place whereon it ſtood, is no Wonder; conſidering that, being not endow'd with Lands, they wholly liv'd on the Charity of others (as we ſee thoſe beyond Sea do at this Day, going conſtantly by Couples with Wallets on their Shoulders to receive Almes). And as for their Habitation here, with the Church, 'tis certain that the Structure of both was wholy made at the Coſt of good People; ſo great a Reſpect did the World in thoſe Days bear towards them, by Reaſon of their devout and auſtere Lives. For it appears, that in *An.* 1234. 19 *H.* 3. *Raph Fitz-Nicholas*, then Shiriff of *Warwickſh.* in his Accompt makes Mention of Shingles allow'd by the K. for covering their Oratory here, and delivered out of the Woods at *Kenilworth*, for that Purpoſe; which, being but xi. Years after their firſt coming into *England*, doth argue clearly, that then was the Time they firſt ſetled in *Coventre*; the Ground whereon this Houſe was built, being allow'd unto them by *Ranulph* the laſt of that Name, Earl of *Cheſter*, out of his Mannour of *Cheyleſ-*

more

more, as is evident. And therefore upon the Grant of *Coventre*, made in Fee-Ferme to the Monks by *Roger de Montalt* and *Cecilie* his Wife, 34 H. 3. it, together with the Mannour-Houſe and Park of *Cheyleſmore* were reſerved to the ſaid *Roger* and *Cecily*, and their Heirs.

It ſeems that theſe Friers had afterwards alſo many good Benefactors: For ſo fair a Church as that hath been, by View of the Steeple yet ſtanding, could not be built without very great Coſt. But that the ſame Structure was made in *E.* 3. Time, I am induced to believe; partly from the Form of its Fabrick; and partly becauſe I find, that *Edw.* Prince of *Wales*, (commonly called the *Black-Prince*) by his Charter bearing Date 14. *Dec.* 32 *E.* 3. gave Leave to theſe Friers (of whom, as the ſame Grant expreſſes he was Patron) for to take ſo much Stone out of his Quarry in the Park of *Cheyleſmore*, as they ſhould have Occaſion to uſe about their Buildings and Walls. And likewiſe Liberty to have a Poſtern, from their Manſion into his Park, to carry out any of their Covent that ſhould be diſeaſed, ſo that they were not to go further than the ſaid Quarry: The Key of which Dore to be alwaies kept by the Warden of the ſame Friers, or his Subſtitute; and no other to paſs that Way but ſuch as were Sick.

And as I am of Opinion that then was the Time of its Building; ſo do I imagine, that ſome of the *Haſtings* were good Benefactors thereto, in regard that divers of them lay buried in a Chappell of the ſame Church, called *Haſting's* Chappell, and ſome in the very Habite of *Friers-Minors*, ſo great an Eſteem had they of this Order. Wherefore, to fortify my Conjecture, I have here added a very notable Membriall touching thoſe honourable Perſons of that Family, who lye here interred.

En la Chapelle de lez Freres-Menours de Coventre, appelle Haſtinges-Chapelle eſt une feneſtre en la Northe parte oue vne ſcucheon des Armes de Haſtinges, la ſecond partie de d'or & de cinople, ove vne Lyon de gules rampant. La tierce d'azure ove troys garbs de Cumyn d'or enceinter de gules en milieu d'icelle. En vne feneſtre en le Eſt eſt lez Armes de Haſtinges, de Cantelow, & de Valence. En l'autre feneſtre en le Eſt eſt lez Armes de Haſtings & d'azure a. 6. lionceux d'argent, & de la Spenſere.

Item en vne autre feneſtre, en baſe, eſt lez Armes de Haſtinges & de Huntingfeld, ceſtaſavoir d'or ove vne feſſe de gules & trois torteux d'argent. En le ſecond eſt Haſtings, & argent deux barrs de geules ove vne label de Valence. En le tierce eſt lez Armes de Haſtings. En le quart eſt de gules ove vne Egle d'argent, du quel ſon bill eſt d'or.

Et la ſont enterres deux chivaliers, ceſtaſavoir Monſr. Henry de Haſtings, & Johan la file de Monſr. Guiliam de Cantelow, & ſoer a S. Thomas de Hereford l'eveſque. Et proſchein lui giſt la dit Johan, ove lez Armes de Haſtings & Cantelow. L'autre chivalier eſt oue l'Armes de Haſtings enſeint oveſque lez Armes de Valence, ſon nome eſtoit Johan de Haſtings. Et proſchein lui giſt dame Iſabel de Valence oveſque lez Armes de Haſtings. Et jouſt la dit Iſabel, giſt dame Johan de Huntingfeld, file a Monſr. John de Haſtings & Iſabel de Valence en vne gowne powdre dez Armes de Haſtings, & d'or feſſe de gules; & en ſon mantel par deſſus celle eſt, eſt d'argent a deux feſſes de gules, & ſur ſez manches dez Armes de Valence. Et eſt vne pillew deſoubs ſon teſt, ur quel ſont lez Armes de Haſtings & Huntingfeld, quatreſoitz; ceſtaſavoir d'or a vne manche de gules, & d'or a vne feſſe de gules & 3. torteux d'argent.

En le table eſtoit eſcrit, Dominus Henricus de Haſtings cum Domina Johanna conſorte ſua, filia Domini Willielmi de Cantilupe, & ſoror ſancti Thomæ Herefordenſis; & dominus Johannes de Haſtings filius eorundem, cum domina Iſabella conſorte ſua, filia domini Willielmi de Valence Comitis Pembrochiæ & Wexford, ſepultus in habitu fratrum Minorum. Johannes obiit 9. Martii 1312. et Iſabella 3. Oct. 1305. Ad cujus dextram jacet domina Johanna de Huntingfeld filia prædictorum Johannis et Iſabella.

Robertus de Shoteſbroke armiger ſtrenuiſſimus, et ejuſdem domini Henrici quondam vexillator, et poſtea Seneſchallus. Et

Minorita.

Et ibi jacent Johannes, Edmundus, et Henricus filii domini Willielmi de Haſtings, filii D. Johannis de Haſtings. Et Joh. Huntingfeld, filius Will. de Huntingfeld et D. Johannæ conſortis ſuæ.

That this Order of Friers was very much eſteem'd and reverenced by all Sorts of People, is evident enough. For whoſoever ſhall take Notice of ſuch Bequeſts, as by the Teſtaments of moſt Men and Women were made in antient Time, may find, that as they ſeldome neglected to give more or leſs to one or other Religious Houſe of this Rule; ſo if they were Perſons of Quality, they did frequently make Choice of their Sepulture in them, as I ſhall have Occaſion to ſhew in ſome Part of this Work. Neither was it the leaſt Pollicy of theſe Friers to obtain from great Perſons ſuch a Diſpoſall of their Bodies, conſidering how they were imployed and truſted in making their Teſtaments (as I have already ſhewed:) For where ever they ſped in that Kind, they were ſure to have a good Legacy from the Teſtator, and not without Hope, by ſo fair an Example, to obtain no leſs Advantage from his Poſterity: So that *Tho. de Walſingham*, ſpeaking of the Buriall of Q. *Elianor's* Heart in the Church of the *Friers-Minors* at *London*, did not without Cauſe, complain of them in theſe Words.

——*Qui* (meaning the ſaid Friers) *flouti et cuncti fratres reliquorum Ordinum, aliquid de corporibus quorumcunque potentium morientium ſibimet vendicabant, more canum cadaveribus aſſiſtentium, ubi quiſque ſuam particulam avidè conſumendam expectat.*

You ſee he writes ſomewhat paſſionatly of the poor Friers: But conſider that he was himſelf a Monk, and the Reaſon may eaſily be diſcerned.

Before the Suppreſſion of the Monaſteries, this City was very famous for the *Pageants* that were play'd therein, upon *Corpus-Chriſti*-Day; which occaſioning very great Confluence of People thither from far and near, was of no ſmall Benefit thereto; which *Pageants* being acted with mighty State and Reverence by the Friers of this Houſe, had Theaters for the ſeverall Scenes, very large and high, placed upon Wheels, and drawn to all the eminent Parts of the City, for the better Advantage of Spectators: And contain'd the Story of the Old and New Teſtament, compoſed in the old Engliſh Rithme, as appeareth by an antient *MS.* intituled *Ludus Corporis Chriſti*, or *Ludus Coventriæ*.

I have been told by ſome old People, who in their younger Years were Eye-Witneſſes of theſe *Pageants* ſo acted, that the yearly Confluence of People to ſee that Shew was extraordinary great, and yielded no ſmall Advantage to this City.

The next Thing whereof I am to take Notice, in relation to this Friery, is K. H. 8. Survey, in 26. of his Reign: At which Time it did appear, that they had no Lands or Tenements; nor other Poſſeſſions ſpirituall or temporall, but onely a Liberty in the Countrey to receive the Charity of good People. This being ſo, I expect that ſome may demand why it was not diſſolved in 27 *H.* 8. when the leſſer Houſes went to wrack. Whereunto I anſwer, that the Act for that Purpoſe, extendeth onely unto *Monks, Chanons*, and *Nuns*; but if it be aſkt, why theſe were then ſo ſheltred from the firſt Storm; the Reaſon, I think, is apparent; *viz.* there was nothing to be got by their Ruin, foraſmuch as they had no Endowment of Lands, *&c.* though God was as much diſhonoured by the lewd Lives of the Friers for Want of good Government (as the Preamble of that Act imports, in Caſe it ſay true) as by any other whoſe Houſes were certified to be of leſs Value then C. C. *l. per An.* which Favour we ſee gave theſe poor Friers Liberty to breath here a while longer in Expectation of their Ruin, *viz.* till 30 H. 8. that all the great Houſes were diſſolved: they being then forc'd to ſubſcribe an Inſtrument, whereunto their Common-Seal is affixt; and in which the Error of that regular Courſe they had practiſed, is confeſt; whereby they ſurrendred this Houſe into the ſaid K. Hands, as the Copy whereof (being not ordinary, and therefore here inſerted) doth manifeſt.

For

Nomina fundatorum Fratrum Minorum in Coventree — Harl Mſs. 6033

For as moche as wee the Warden and Freers of the House of Saynt *Frances* in Coventre, commonly callyd the *Grey-Freers* in Coventre, in the County of Warwick, doo profoundly consider, that the perfection of Christian livinge dothe nott consist in dume Ceremonies, werynge of a grey coot, disgealinge our selle after straunge fassions, do kynge, noddynge, and beckyng, in gurdyng our selves wythe a gurdle fulle of knotts and other like Papisticall Ceremonies, wherein we hade ben mooste principally practised ond misyd in tymes paste: but the very tru waye to plese God, and to live a tru Christian mon wytheout all ypocrisie, and fayned discimulation is sinceerly declared unto us by our Mr. Christe his Evangelists and Apostoles; being myndyd hereafter to followe the same, conformynge our self unto the will and plesure of our Supreme hedde under God in erthe, the Kynges Majestie; and not to folowe henseforth the superstitius traditions of ony forinsecall potentate or peere: wythe mutuall assent and consent doo submitt our selves unto the mercy of owre seide Soverayng Lord. And wythe like mutuall assent and consent do surrendre and yelde up into the hondes of the same, all our seide House of Saynt *Frances* in the Cite of Coventre commonly callyd the *Grey-Freers* in Coventre, wythe alle the londs tenements, gardens, medows, waters, pondiards, fedings, pastures, comens, Rents, reversions; and alle other our interest ryghtes or titles appertaining unto the same. Mooste humbly beseechinge his mooste noble Grace to dispose of us, and of the same, as belle shall stonde wythe his mooste gracious pleasure. And further frely to graunte unto every on of us his license under wretyng and Seealle to chaunge our habitts into secular fashion; and to receve suche maner of livinges as other secular Priests commonly be preferred unto. And we all faithfully shall pray unto Almighty God long to preserve his mooste noble Grace wythe increse of moche felicite and honor. And in witnes of alle and singuler the premisses, wee the seide Warden and Covent of the *Grey-Freeres* in Coventre, to thes presences have putte our Covent Seealle the fivithe day of October in the therty-the yere of the raynge of our mooste Soveraynge Lord King *Henry* the eyghte.

Per me Johannem Stafford Gardian.
Per me Thomam Maller.
Per me Thomam Sanderson.
Per me Johannem Abell.
Per me Johannem Woode.
Per me Rogerum Lilly.
Per me Thomam Aukock. do
Per me Matheum Walker.
Per me Robartum Walker.
Per me Thomam Bangfit.
Per me Willielmum Gosnelle.

Which said House or Site, was in 34 H. 8. granted by the K. (*inter alia*) to the Mayor, Bayliffs and Commonalty of this City and their Successors for ever.

NEAR unto the Ruins of this Friery, is there an Hospitall (now called the *Gray-Frier-Hospitall*, in respect of its Situation) touching the Foundation whereof, and its successive Benefactors, I shall not need to say any Thing more, then what the Inscription upon the Walls, there, do declare.

May the 4. *An.* 1529. *Mr.* William Fourd *of this City, Merchant of the Staple, founded this Almehouse, for five Men and one Woman; and gave to each of them five Pence a Week for their Maintenance. Afterwards Mr.* William Pisford, *his Executor, gave other Lands, and appointed six Men and their Wives to be placed therein, and each Couple to have Seaven-pence Half-peny a Week. But Mr.* William Wigston, *having Power from both of them, to alter, adde, or diminish their Wills;*

Wills; for the better ordering of the ſaid Houſe, did ordain, that there ſhould be but five Men, and their Wives, and a Nurſe; and each Couple to have Seven-pence Half-peny a Week, and the Nurſe the ſame.

In the ſeventh Year of King James, *the Lands given to this Hoſpitall, were queſtioned as concealed from the Crown; and were again purchaſed by the City; who have ever ſince maintained the charitable Uſes, with a great Addition out of the Chamber of the City.*

In the Year 1621. *the City added another Man and Woman at their own Charge; ſo that there is now ſix Couple, beſides the Nurſe; each Couple being allow'd Two Shillings weekly, and the Nurſe One Shilling a Week, although there be not any Advance of the Rent to the City. Mr.* Simon Norton, *Alderman of this City, gave towards the Maintenance of one Man and Woman in this Hoſpitall, for which the City doth allow Two Shillings a Week alſo, as the reſt have; ſo that there is now ſeaven Couple, and a Nurſe in this Hoſpitall.*

The White Friers.

ON the South-eaſt Part of this City ſtood the *Friers-Carmelites*, commonly called the *White-Friers*, another Sort of Mendicants. The firſt Inſtitution of which Order, as divers Authors affirm, having been *Elias* the Prophet, at Mount-Carmell in Syria, where, living a retired Life in the Service of God, he gave Example unto many devout Anachorites to repair thither for Solitude; but theſe being diſperſt over the whole Mountain, in private Cells, were at Length by *Almeric* Biſhop of Antioch, reduced into one Covent; at which Time they elected out of themſelves a Superior, and firſt began the Foundation of a Monaſtery, where the Chappell of the Bleſſed Virgin ſtood; *viz.* near the Fountain of *Helias*. Howbeit, the Obſervance of this Life began not till the Days of Pope *Alexander* the third, about the Year 1170. Nor till the Time of *Innocent* 3. near 40. Years after, had they any direct Order, that *Albert* B. of Hieruſalem preſcribed unto them (thus living in the Wilderneſs) a Form out of St. *Baſills* Rule, and a parti-coloured Mantle of White and Red, ſuch as one as *Helyas* the Prophet antiently uſed; which afterwards *Honorius* iii. altered; conceiving it not to be ſo proper; and in ſted of the Party-Colour, appointed that it ſhould be all White, calling the Covent of theſe Freres *the Family of the Bleſſed Virgin*; in Regard the white Colour, being leaſt ſpotted, doth beſt accord with Virginity.

But the firſt Mention that I find of their propagating in this Realm, is in *An.* 1250. 34 H. 3. at which Time Sir *John de Veſcy* of *Alnwike* in *Northumberland* (a great Baron in thoſe Days) returning from the Holy Land, brought into England this Order of Friers, and built for them a Monaſtery at *Holme* in *Northumberland*) then a deſert Place, and not unlike to Mount-Carmell before-mentioned. Yet here in *Coventre* they ſetled not till *An.* 1342. 16 *E.* 3. that Sir *John Poultney*, Kt (4. Times Lord Mayor of *London*) erected this Houſe for them; whoſe Armes cut in Stone are ſtill extant over the Gates thereof.

With Lands they had no Endowment; but, as the *Grey-Friers*, before ſpoken of, lived on the Charity of good People; which was not ſlender; ſo high an Opinion had the Strictneſs of their Rule and Auſterity of their Lives obtained; there being few Perſons of Quality, reſiding within many Miles, that by their Teſtaments gave not liberally to them, as by that of the Lord *Baſſet* of *Drayton*, in 7 *R.* 2. appeareth, whereby they had no leſs then a Legacy of CCC *l.*

Further mention, after which Time, I find not, till 1 H. 5. that the K. granted Licence to *Will. Botener* of *Withibroke*, to give unto them a Piece of Ground, lying here in *Coventre*, containing 141. Foot in Length, and 45. in Breadth, for the Enlargement of their Habitation; in Conſideration whereof they were to celebrate the Anniverſary of *John Percy* and *Alice* his Wife, deceaſed. But ſhortly after the Foundation of this Religious Houſe, was there one *William*,

a Frere thereof, who became very famous for his Learning, and was commonly called *Guilhelmus Coventre*; of whom *Balæus* in his ſixth Century, *Pag.* 461. maketh large Mention, and of the Works that he wrote; whereunto I refer my Reader.

In 22 H. 7. did Sir *Thom. Poultney*, of *Miſterton*, Kt. (lineall Heir to the before ſpecified Sir *John*) by his Teſtament, bearing Date 3. *Apr.* bequeath his Body to be buried in the Chancell here; appointing, that at his Funerall 24. Torches, each having his Armes upon them, ſhould be born by xxiiii. poor Men, every one having a Gown with the *Libberds-Head* behind and before.

Upon the Survey taken in 26 H. 8. it was found, that there were certain Burgages in *Coventre*, belonging to theſe Friers, which yielded 03.*l*.-06.*s*.-08.*d*. *per An.* Rent. And that the Oblations in the Chappel of our Lady, did, one Year with another, amount to 05.*l*.-18.*s*. *per An. In toto* 09.*l*.-04.*s*.-08.*d*. Out of which Burgages there being yearly payd xx. *s*. unto *Mereton's-Chantry* in the Church of St. *Michaell*; and to the Heirs of *Rob. Norwood*, 2. *s*. *per An.* as a Rent for the Land upon which their Church was built; with Money for Murage annually; and other Payments, amounting in all to xxxi.*s*. the clear Value of all that belong'd to them extended to 07.*l*.-13.*s*.-08.*d*. *per Annum*. But the Diſſolution of them hapned not till 30. H. 8. that all the poor Mendicants followed the Example of greater Monaſteries in making Surrender of their Houſes. At which Time, by their Inſtrument bearing Date 1 *Oct.* 30. H. 8. they gave up this to the King; where unto theſe Names were ſubſcribed.

Hugo Burnby.	*Joh. Hurſt.*
Thom. Fyſcher.	*Ric. Cowper.*
Ric. Wodcoke.	*Will. Madder.*
Thom. Vicars.	*Joh. Newbold.*
Will. Walkar.	*Joh. Elyſon.*
Will. Harryſon.	*Ric. Cowper.*
Joh. Paſty.	*Will. Kynge.*

No Penſion being allow'd to any of them.

After which this Houſe, with all t belong'd thereunto, excepting the Rent of xx. s. *per Annum*, due to *Merton's Chantry*, before-mentioned, was (*inter alia*) by the Kings Letters Pat. dated 27. *Aug.* 36. *H.* 8. granted to Sir *Raph Sadler*, Knight, and his Heirs, to hold in Burgage; which Sir *Raph* ſold it to *John Hales* (of whom I have ſpoke in S. *John's* Hoſpitall;) who made it his Habitation, as it ſeems: For by his laſt Will and Teſtament, dated 17. *Dec.* 15. *Eliz.* appointing it to be ſold, here there calls it by the Name of *Hales-Place, alias White-Friers* in *Coventre*. This was that *John*, whom the learned *Leland* called *Hales* with the Club-Foot; which Lameneſs and Deformity was occaſioned (as I have heard) by a Wound with a Dagger, that caſually, in running, fell forth of the Sheath into the Dirt; ſo that as he ſtept forward, the Sole of his Foot did hit upon the Point thereof. He dyed 5. *Cal.* Jan. *Anno* 1572. (15. *Eliz.*) and was buried in the Church of S. *Peters the Poor* in Broad-Street, *London*, as his Epitaph in *Stow's* Survey, which I have here inſerted, imports.

Dominus Johannes Hales, *à pueritiâ literis deditus, excellenti ingenio, docilitate, memoriâ, ſtudio, & induſtria ſingulari: adjunctâ linguarum, diſciplinarum, juris, Antiquitatis, rerum divinarum atq; humanarum magna & multiplici doctrina inſtructiſſimus. Evaſit innocentiâ, integritate, gravitate, conſtantiâ, fide, pietate, religione: graviſſimæ etiam ægrotationis, & rerum difficilium diuturnâ perpeſſione; & in patientia ornatiſſimus fuit. Vitæ honeſtiſſimè ſanctiſſiméq; actæ diem ſupremum* 3. *Cal. Jan.* 1572. *clauſit animæ & corporis. Reliquiæ hoc loco ſitæ ſunt.*

But notwithſtanding the before-ſpecified Appointment, it was not accordingly ſold: For *John Hales*, Eſq. deſcended from *Chriſtopher* his eldeſt Brother, now enjoys it as his Heir. At the Death of the before ſpecified *John*, the Church was compleatly ſtanding, as appears by that Inquiſ. but it continued not long after; for about.... *Eliz.* Mr. *Edward*

Boughton

Carmelita,

Boughton, obteyning the Materials, built his Houſe at *Cauſton* therewith.

The Gilds.

THE next Thing that I am to take Notice of, is the ſeverall *Gilds* or Fraternities founded in this City, wherewith I will now go on in their Order; obſerving by the Way, that *Gild* proceedeth from the Saxon Word ȝeld and ȝild, which ſignifieth Money; becauſe that ſuch, as were either for Charity, Religion or Merchandize Sake aſſociated, did caſt their Moneys, Goods, yea, and ſometimes Lands together, for the publique Support of their own common Charge. Theſe had their annuall Feaſts and neighbourlike Meetings: Which Cuſtome as Sir H. *Spelman* obſerves, was very antiently uſed by the *Franks*, *Longobards*, and other Nations; and is ſtill continued by the *Germans*, who call the frequent yearly Banquets of the Country People, made at their common Charge, *Gilden*. As to the direct Time when theſe had a firſt Beginning in *England*, there is nothing of Certainty to be found, for as much as they were in uſe long before any formall Licenſes were granted unto them for ſuch Meetings, or for conferring Lands or Rent towards the Support of their publique Expences in what Sort ſoever, as by what I have obſerv'd in *Stratford ſuper Avon*, will appear.

The firſt and moſt antient of the *Gilds*, here in *Coventre*, was founded in 14. *E.* 3. at which Time the King granted Licenſe to the *Coventre-Men*, that they ſhould have a *Merchants-Gild*, and a Fraternity of Brethren and Siſters of the ſame, in this Town; with a Maſter or Warden thereof to be choſen out of the ſame Fraternity; and that they might make *Chantryes*, beſtow Almes, do other Works of Piety, and conſtitute Ordinances touching the ſame, with all apperteining thereto. And in 17 *E.* 3. by another Pat. dated 25. *Maii*, did give Leave unto *John Holland*, Prieſt, *John Lemman*, *Thomas Porter*, *Ric. de Stoke*, *Peter de Stoke*, and *Will. Welneſburgh*, that they ſhould enter into a Fraternity, and make a *Gild*, conſiſting of themſelves, and ſuch others who were content to joyn with them, to the Honour of *S. John Baptiſt*. As alſo to purchaſe certain Lands, Tenements and Rents, to the Value of xx. l. *per Annum*, lying within the Liberties of *Coventre*, for the founding of a *Chantry* of ſix Prieſts to ſing Maſs every Day in the Churches of the Holy *Trinity*, and *S. Michael* in *Coventre* aforeſaid, for the Soules of the Kings Progenitors; and for the good Eſtate of the King; Q. *Iſabell* his Mother, Q. *Philippa* his Conſort, and their Children: As alſo of *Walter de Cheſthunt*, and *Will. de Belgrave*, during their Lives here on Earth; and for their Soules after their Departure hence; and for the good Eſtate of the ſaid *John*, *John*, *Thomas*, *Rich. Peter*, and *Will.* and the reſt of the ſaid *Gild*, with their Benefactors: And likewiſe for their Souls, and for the Souls of *John* of *Eltham*, late E. of *Cornwall*, and of all the Faithfull deceaſed.

Which *Gild*, being ſo founded as aforeſaid; within two Years after the ſame K. *Edward*, at the Requeſt of Q. *Iſabell* his Mother, granted Licenſe unto her, to give and aſſigne thereunto, a Parcell of Land with the Appurtenances ſituat in *Coventre*, and called by the Name of *Babbelake*, containing cxvii. Foot in Length, and xl. Foot in Breadth, to build thereupon a certain Chappell, to the Honour of our bleſſed Saviour and S. *John Baptiſt*, for two Prieſts, to ſing Maſs daily for the good Eſtate of the ſaid K. *Edward*, Q. *Iſabell* his Mother, Q. *Philippa* his Conſort, *Edward* Prince of *Wales*, and of the Brethren and Benefactors of the ſame *Gild*, whil'ſt they lived in this World; and for their Soules after their Departure hence: As alſo for the Soul of *John* of *Eltham*, E. of *Cornwall*, and the Souls of the ſaid Brethren and Benefactors, with all the Faithfull deceaſed. Which Chappell was finiſh't within the Compaſs of 5. Years, as it ſeems

ſeems by the Dedication thereof, 6 *Non. Maii An.* 1350. 24. *E.* 3.

The Trinity Gild.

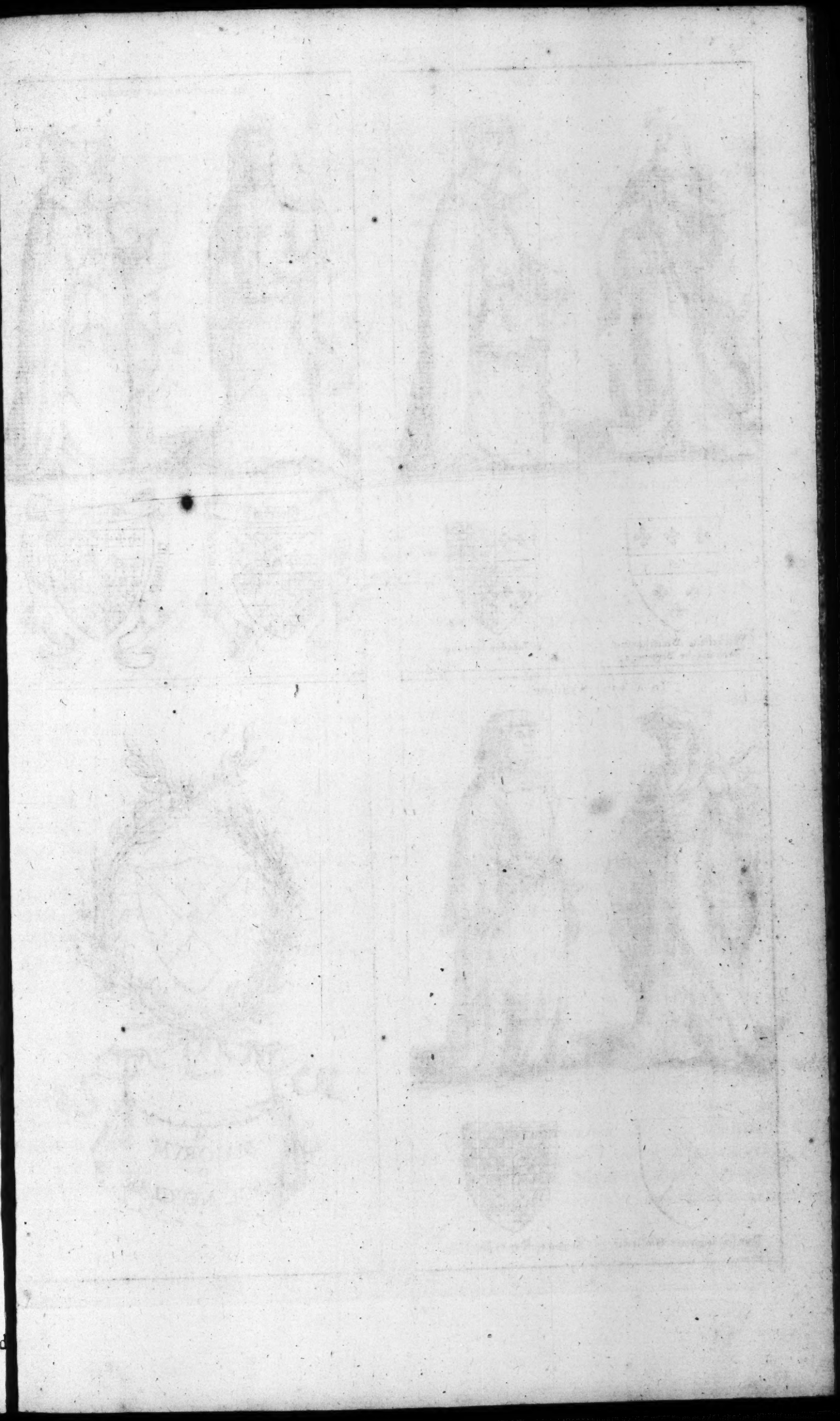
IN 38. *E.* 3. *Henry de Kele*, and *Tho. Orme* of *Coventre*, founded another *Gild* to the Honour of the Holy *Trinity*, having Licenſe to purchaſe Lands, within the Liberties of *Coventre*, of x. Marks yearly Value, for the Maintenance of two Prieſts to ſing Maſs daily in *Trinity* Church, for the good Eſtate of the K. Q. *Philippa* his Conſort, and their Children; and after their Departure out of this World, for the Health of their Souls; as alſo for the Souls of all the Brethren and Siſters of the ſame, and their Benefactors for ever. Which *Gild*, being in 16. *R.* 2. united to that of *S. John Baptiſt* before mentioned, was, upon that Conjunction, and afterwards to bear the Name of the *Gild* of the Holy *Trinity*, our *Lady*, and *S. John Bapt.* the Fraternity thereof, having then Licenſe to purchaſe Lands for the Maintenance of ix. Prieſts to ſing Maſs dayly in the ſaid Chappell of *Babbelake*, for the good Eſtate of the K. and Q. as alſo of his Uncles, *viz.* the Dukes of *Aquitane*, and *Lanc. York*, and *Glouc.* with their Children: So that preſently it began to be endowed with Lands, *Richard Clarke*, *Richard Dodenhale*, *Simon de Langham*, of *Coventre*, *John Stiward*, *Roland Danet*, and *Henry atte Hey*, Mercer, giving 2. Meſs. and 24s. Rent in *Coventre*; and *John Percy*, with divers others, 140. 1. Mill, 92. Acres of Land, 1. Acre of Meadow, 1. Acre of Wood, 20l.-17-01d.-ob. Rent, and the Rent of 2. Hens yearly thereunto; the Brethren whereof *in Anno* 1399. (1 H. 4.) had Licenſe from the Biſhop, for celebrating Divine Service in the ſaid Chappell, ſo that the Mother-Church might not receive Prejudice thereby.

More Addition of Lands alſo do I find hereunto, *viz.* in 10. H. 4. of 1. Meſs. in *Coventre*, given by *Will. Broke*, Parſon of *Lodbrok*, *John Broke*, his Brother, and *John Barbour* of *Biſhops Ichington*. And in 6. H. 5. of 4. Meſs. one Tofte, one Garden, and xi. Acres of Land, with the Appurtenances, by *John Preſton*, and *Will. Whitchurch*, Merchants of *Coventre*; and of Lands to the Value of 50l. *per Annum*, by *Henry Smyth*, Eſquire, and others in 23. *H.* 7.

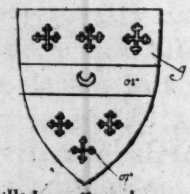
S. Katherine's Gild.

ANOTHER *Gild*, do I find, that *Tho. de Ichynton*, *Nich. Pake*, *Will. de Tutebury*, *Will. de Overton*, Clark, *Peter Percy*, *Ric. de Darkere*, *Sim. Wareyn*, *John Vincent* and *John de Pakynton*, gave a Fine to the K. for Licenſe to Found in 17. *E.* 3. to the Honour of S. *Katherin:* But this, as it ſeemes, was united to thoſe of the Holy *Trinity*, our *Lady*, and S. *John Bapt.* whereunto belonged a Fair and ſtately Structure for their Feaſts and Meetings, called S. *Mary-Hall*, ſituat oppoſit to S. *Michael*-Church on the South Part; and built about the Beginning of *H.* 6. Time, as may appear by the Form of its Fabrick, and other Teſtimonyes: The Windows whereof are adorn'd with ſundry beautifull Portraitures and Armes; that towards the North, of ſeverall K. in their Surcotes, whoſe Names placed under them, are as followeth; *Rex Will. Conqueſtor. Rex. Rich. Conqueſtor. Rex egregius Henricus quintus. Rex magnimus Henricus quartus. Conſtantinus Anglicus, Imperator Chriſtianiſſimus. Rex Arthurus, Conqueſtor inclitus. Rex illuſtris Henricus tertius. Rex ..... Henricus ſextus.*

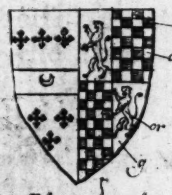
In the upper Part of which Window, are theſe Armes.



In an East Window

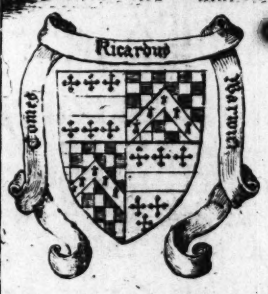


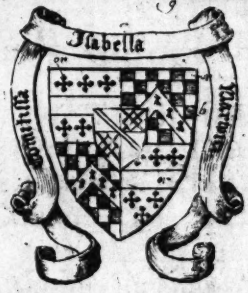
Willielmus Beauchampe
Dominus de Bergavenny.



et Johanna uxor eius

In another east window

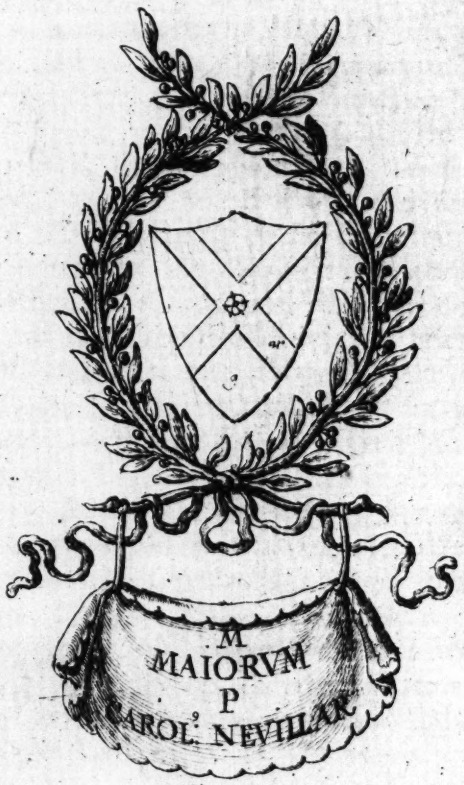




In a west-window.

Humfridus Comes Stafforde,

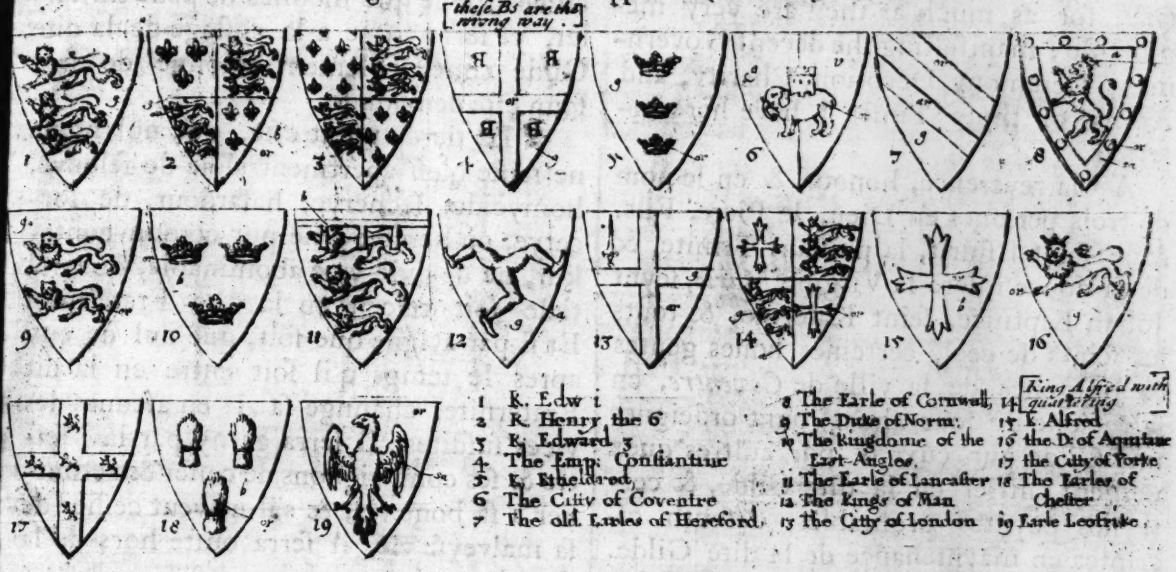
Johannes Dux de Norfolk.



W. Hollar fecit.

Coventre.

Armes in the great window at the Vpper end of St Mary-hall.



1 K. Edw i
2 K. Henry the 6
3 K. Edward 3
4 The Emp: Constantine
5 K. Ethelred
6 The Citty of Coventre
7 The old Earles of Hereford
8 The Earle of Cornwall,
9 The Duke of Norm:
10 The Kingdome of the East-Angles.
11 The Earle of Lancaster
12 The Kings of Man
13 The Citty of London
14 [King Alfred with quarterings]
15 K. Alfred
16 the D: of Aquitaine
17 the Citty of Yorke
18 The Earles of Chester
19 Earle Leofrike.

Armes in other Windows there

1 The Citty of Canterbury
2
3 Humphry Duke of Glocester
4 Iohn Duke of Bedford
5 Sr Willm Babington
6 Savile,
7 Whittington impaling Fitz warin.

And in thoſe towards the Eaſt and Weſt, of divers eminent Perſons that were admitted of this Fraternity; amongſt whom I have made Choiſe of theſe here placed, to ſhew the Magnificence and State, antiently of our Engliſh Nobility; which, through the Favour of that learned, and truly noble Gentleman *Charles Nevill*, Eſquire, now Vice-Provoſt of *Kings-Coll.* in *Cambridge* (whoſe lineall Anceſters moſt of them be) are out of his ſpeciall Honour to their Memory, and ſingular Affection to Antiquities, thus, in the Formalitie of their Habits, lively repreſented.

The Ordinances or Statutes of which *Gild*, for as much as they are very memorable; manifesting the decent Government, Ceremony, Devotion, Charity, and Amity of those Times I have here inserted.

A ' la reverence, honour, & en le nom de trois persones en Dieu, le Piere, Fils, & le seint Espirit, la puissant Trinite, & de sa douce miere la Virgine *Marie*, seynt Johan Baptistre, seint Katerine, & touts les seints de ceel, certeines bones gentes & Burgeises de la ville de *Coventre*, en salvacione de lour almes, ount ordeignes une Gilde pur eux, & pur aultres quex voillent entrier en la dite Gilde, & certeynes poyntes profitables, desouth escriptes en mayntenance de la dite Gilde.

1. La primier point est que les Friers & Soers de la dite Gilde troveront & averont tresses Chapeleyns sages covenables & de honeste & chaste vie; & soient yci esslus par les soveraynes de la cele Fraternite pur lier, prier & chauntier pur toutz les frers & soers de la dite Gilde, & pur touts le bien-faitours a ycele. Et que chescun iour soit la office en lour chapel pur icele ordeigne; ceste asavoir, *Matynes*, *Messes*, *Vespres*, & *Complin* chaunte per Note; & apres *complin* un Antym per Note de la virgine *Marie*, oue cync serges de cere ardaunts devaunt la ymage de la dit Virgine: de queles Chapeleynes chanterount chascun iour certeynes *Messes*; ceste asavoir Messes de iour par Note; une Messe de la Seint *Trinite*, une de *nostre Dame*, une Messe de S. *John Baptistre*, une Messe de S. *Katerine*, & une Messe de *Requiem*, ensemblement ove aultres Messes come partient a eux a faires.

2. La second point este, que si ascun prosd'home de la dite fraternite qeu soun poair ad este bien voillaunt al estat de ycele, par fieu, euwe, roborie, ou par ascune aultre aveynture de secle, que ne soit my de sa foly demesme, chiece en poverte; le sovereyne de la compaignye, & ses compaignons luy apresteront une porcion d'argent de la dite fraternite pur marchaunder & profiter, sur la surete qu'il peut fair sauns riens prende de gain. Et si ascun tiel soit enfebly per malady ou vean lesse que mesmes ne peut travailler, yl serra troue a la costage de la dite Gilde convenablement soloune de que soun este demaunde.

3. La tierce point este, que nul home ne feme q'est apertment alose de felonye, homycide, lecherye, hasardour, de sorcerye, ou heresye; ne pur comun contekur, ne de nule vice abominable, que nul tiele soit resceu en la dite Fraternite. Et si par avigne que soit, que nul de eux apres le temps q'il soit entre en la dit Fraternite, chaunge sa vie en ascunes des vices susdites, il serra garny par la Mestre & ses compaignons de cesser & retourner a sa bone vie, & s'il ne veut cessier de sa malveyse vie, il serra ouste hors de la dite fraternite a tous iours.

4. Le quart point est, que en chescun an soint faits quatres sollemnites, ceste-asavoir le feste de la seynt *Trinite*, la *Assumption nostre Dame*, seint *John Baptistre* & *S. Kateryn* pur les freres & soors queux sount en ville, & de ces queux voillent venir de pais, solempnement a la reverence avantdit.

5. Le quint poynt este, que en chescun an soit fait quatres Anniversaryes, pur touts les almes des Friers & Soers de la dit compaigne a Dieu comendes, & pur touts les biens fessours de ycele.

6. Le sysme pointe este, que chescun Friere d'eux en tous places quant lieu & temps demande, parlera & procura a la dite fraternite l'amyte & la bounte q'il peut bonement faire, par quey l'estate de cele compaigne le meultes peut acrestre, & estre mainteine, & chescun d'eux avera autre parfitement de coer & naturelment ferra pur aultre par reason del alliauns de cele Fraternite; Et que nule home de cele Fraternite ne soyt si feel de soy bauder de malefaire, contekier ne nule poynt de contek, ne d'aultre male mayntenance par resone de Mayntenance de la dite compaygne sur la peyne de voyder le compaigne pur touts iours.

7. Le septiesme point este, que touts les Chappelleyns queux chauntount pur la dite Fraternite, soient charges par lour serement, qua a quele temps que ascun

Frere

Frere ou Soer de la dite fraternite, ſi bie n' hors de ville en quele place git ou dedeins, devie, que cheſcun, des dits Chapeleins chaunteront pur l'alme de celuy a Dieu commende par noum de ſon Baptiſme par un an apres ſi mort continuelment.

8. Le vtiſme poynt eſte, que a quel temps que aſcun Freres ou Soers de la dite Gilde deins ou hors de ville, ou outre le mare, & le Meſtre de la Gilde eut ſoit garny al ferra aſſembler touts les Chapeleyns de la Gylde, Clerks & autres bones gentes de la dite Fraternite queux ferrount *Dirige* per Note ſolempnement; & la iour prochein ſuant Meſſe per Note a la Chapel de S. *John Babbelake*, & offerount illeoques en meſme la manoir q'eſt affaire pur celuy que devie en ville. Et que le Bedeman alera par tote la ville a prier pur l'alme a les conſtages de la ditte Gilde.

9. Item ordeigne eſte, que ſi aſcun Frere ou Soer devie en poverte; & n'ad my de ſes biens propre, dount eſtre enſevely que devire, ſoiet il enſevely honorablement come il appiert a une Frere & Soer ac les coſtages de la Gylde.

Hæc eſt ordinatio & regula facta & conſtituta per aſſenſum totius Fraternitatis Gyldæ *S. Trinitatis, S. Mariæ, S. Johannis*, & *S. Katherinæ*, pro Capellanis ejuſdem Gildæ faciendis; ac pro ſanitate corporis ac animæ valdè utilis.

Imprimis, quod omnes preſbyteri, & ſinguli ad Ordinationes pro eiſdem faciendi, corporaliter preſtabunt Sacramentum quatinus in eis eſt jur. edit. & edend.

Item ordinatum eſt, quod Cuſtos chori Capellæ de *Babbelake*, & omnes Preſbyteri ejuſdem, omnes & ſinguli benè & honeſtè ſe gerant, & tonſurati, veſtes deferent ſtatui ſuo congruentes. Ipſi quoq; preſbyteri, omnes & ſinguli, Miſſas & alia Divina obſequia cotidie in capella prædicta, impedimento ceſſante, legitimè celebrabunt. Et in ſingulis Miſſis rogabunt ſpecialiter pro Fratribus & Sororibus Gildæ predictæ, vivis & defunctis, & pro omnibus benefactoribus ejuſdem: Quolibetq; die *Matutina, alta Miſſa, Veſpere*, & *Completorium* in choro dictæ Capellæ, cum Nota, debent decantari.

Et poſt Matutinas, & horas cantandi, ut prædicitur, *Miſſa de beata Virgine* quolibet die debet celebrari ad Altare ejuſdem Virginis cotidie, cum Nota, de uno ſacerdote ad eandem deputato per ordinationem cuſtodis chori, niſi fuerint impediti per obitum alicujus Fratris aut Sororis; In & feſtis ejuſdem Virginis & per octabas ejuſdem cum acciderint. Ad quam quidem Miſſam celebrandam, ut præmittitur, Clericus qui pro tempore fuerit Capellæ prædictæ pulſabit campanam pro eadem Miſſa ordinata, per ſpacium ultimæ horæ in choro cantata, & eodem tempore fiat.

Et in quolibet die fiat *Miſſa matutinalis de S. Trinitate*. Et in qualibet die fiat *Miſſa de Jo. Baptiſta*; una *Miſſa de S. Katerina*; & una *Miſſa* de *Requiem*, pro defunctis; ſimul cum omnibus aliis Miſſis, & aliis divinis officiis ſecundùm ordinationem ſuam inde faciendum. Et in qualibet die Dominica aſperſio aquæ benedictæ cum Nota decantabitur.

Item ordinatum eſt, quod omnes preſbyteri ibidem exiſtant, niſi aliquis eorum legitimè fuerit impeditus, & per Cuſtodem licentiatus. Et quod nullus preſbyter ſe abſentet ab aliqua Miſſa, *Matutinis horis, Veſperis, Completorio*, cum Nota decantata; nec ab aliqua alia divina operatione in Capella prædicta facienda, niſi legitimè fuerit impeditus, & per Cuſtodem Capellæ prædictæ licentiatus.

Item ordinatum eſt, quod nullus Preſbyter ibidem moram trahens, utetur commune taberna, neq; ſe abſentet extra hoſpitium ſuum noctanter, niſi fuerit per rationabilem cauſam, ſciente Cuſtode prædicto.

Item ordinatum eſt, quod in qualibet die, poſt *Completorium*, fiant quinq; cerei ardentes coram imagine Virginis *Mariæ* in Capella prædicta, dum una Antiphona, viz. *Salve Regina*, per Notam praedictam decantabitur. Et quod omnes Preſbyteri ibidem exiſtant, niſi aliquis eorum fuerit impeditus, vel per Cuſtodem licentiatus. Et in qualibet die Paraſceve, poſtquam Corpus Chriſti in Sepulchro poſitum fuerit

rit

rit, unum cereum ardentem coram ſepulchro perficiatur, & dum ſacrum Corpus Domini ibidem permaneat.

Item ordinatum eſt, quod quandocunq; aliquis frater, vel aliqua ſoror Gildae praedictae ab hac luce migraverit, quod Cuſtos qui pro tempore fuerit Capellae praedictae, & caeteri Preſbyteri Gildae qui in alio loco celebrabunt; & quilibet eorum per ſe ſcribet, vel facient aut faciet ſcribere nomen baptiſmi defuncti ſuper tabulas ſupra Altaria inde ordinata. Et quod omnes & ſinguli Preſbyteri Gildae Praedictae, pro anima illius defuncti celebrent, & habeant in ſua memoria per unum annum integrum poſt obitum ſuum. Et quod quilibet Sacerdos Gildae praedictae, poſtquam *Confiteor* & *Miſereatur* dicantur, revertat ad populum, dicens. *Orate ſpecialiter pro ſtatu omnium fratrum & ſororum Gildæ S. Trinitatis, S. Muriæ, S. Johannis, & S. Katerinæ Coventriæ, & pro animabus defunctorum illius, & omnium aliorum, & pro omibus eidem Gildæ benefactoribus Pater noſter cum ſalutatione de virgine Maria.*

Pro quibus verò Ordinationibus & conſtitutionibus ſuperiùs nominatis, benè & fideliter obſervandis tenendis & continuandis, praedicti Magiſtri Gildae praedictae perſolvent annuatim cuilibet Capellano, ad Capellam praedictam morantem, pro ſalario ſuo dum benè & honeſtè ſe gerat octo marcas ſex ſol. & octo denar.

Item habebunt duos campos viz. illum campum quondam *Lalleford*, & *Howelsfield*, in recompenſationem laborum ſuorum.

Et inſuper ordinatum eſt, quod hoſtiae Capellae beatae *Mariæ de Monte*, in cimiterio *S. Michaelis* fient apertae quolibet die feſto, ab *hora Matutina* uſq; ad finem *altæ* Miſſae in Eccleſia *S. Michaelis*, Et in diebus ferialibus, à tempore *Matutinarum* uſq; ad finen *Miſſæ* B. *Mariæ* in Eccleſia praedicta. Et quando aliquis Preſbyter ibidem celebrârit, fiat campana pulſata qualibet die ad quamcunq; celebrationem *Miſſarum* cujuſcunq; Preſbyteri cum acciderit. Et quod ad horas *Veſperarum*, hoſtiæ ſint apertæ durante hora *Veſperarum* in Eccleſia parochiali.

The Oath.

YE ſhall be good and true, and each of you ſhall be good and true to the Maſter of the Gild **of the holy** Trinitie, our Lady, S. John, and S. Katherine of Coventre, **and to all the Brethren and Siſters of the ſame** Gild: **And all the good Rules and Ordinances by the ſaid Maſter and his Brethren afore this Time made, and hereafter to be made, and your Days of Payment truly for to keep to your Power, ſo God you help and all Saints.**

Petition.

MAiſter we beſeech you at the reverence of the holy Trinity, **that you will vouchſafe to receive us to be Brethren of this Place with you.**

Nay ſo great a Reputation had this Fraternity far and neer, that K. *H.* 4. and K. *H.* 6. with divers of the principall Nobility, Biſhops, and other eminent Perſons, thought it no diſhonour to be admitted thereof, as by this enſuing Catalogue, where many more are regiſtred, may be ſeen.

Hæc ſunt nomina fratrum & ſororum Gildæ S. Trinit. S. Mariae, S. Johan: Bapt. & S. Katherinae Coventriae, *viva & mortua ſubſcripta.*

Henricus quartus Rex Angl. Henr. Princeps Walliæ. Henr. Bewfort Epiſcp. Wint. Henr. ſextus Rex Angl. & Franc. Henr. Frowyk de London & Alicia mater ejus. Henr. Comes Warwici, & Cecilia ux. ejus. D. Joh. Botourt miles, & Jocaſa ux. ejus. D. Joh. Rex Caſtelli & Legionis, D. Lanc. & D. Conſtancia regina Caſtell, & Leg. Duciſſa Lanc. recepti fuerunt in Fraternitatem Gildæ die Sab. prox. ante feſtum S. Lucae Evang. anno regni Regis R. 2. poſt Conq. Angliae, ſecundo. D. Joh. de Arundell & D. Alianora conſors ſua recepti fuerunt in Gildam 4. die menſis Nov. Anno D. 1379. Joh. Beauchamp. & Johanna ux. ejus. Joh. Drax Serjaunt de Armis. D. Joh. Holland Dux de Exon. & D. Iſabella Duciſſa. Joh. Holland miles & D. Eliz. ux. ejus. Joh. filius & frater Regum,

Dux

Dux Redfordiæ, Comes de Richemund & de Kendale & Conſtabularius Angliæ. Iſabella Comitiſſa Warwici, Katerina Duciſſa Lanc. D. Ric. Comes Arundell, & ux. ejus.

Die Merc. prox. poſt feſtum annunc. S. Mariae Anno M. CCCLXXVI.

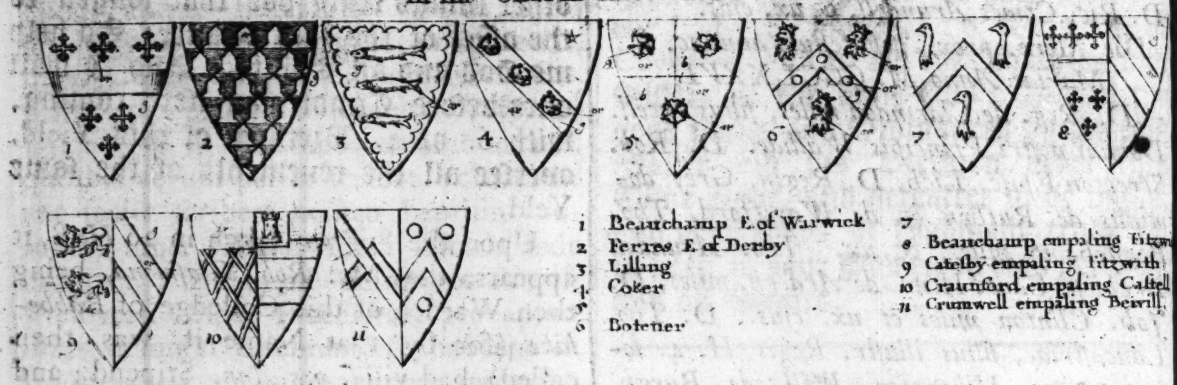
D. Reg. de Clarindon miles, filius excell. Domini noſtri Principis Walliae. D. Rob. Stretton Epiſc. Lich. D. Regin. Grey dominus de Ruthyn & de Wayeſford. Tho. Beauchamp miles, & ux. Tho. Arundell Archiep. Cant. Henr. de Ardern. miles, D. Job. Clinton miles et ux. ejus. D. Tho. Lancaſtriae, filius illuſtr. Regis H. 4. locum-tenens Hiberniae. Will. de Burgh. Juſtic. Domini Regis, et Margar. ux. ejus. D. Will. la Zouch miles et Eliz. ux. ejus. D. Umfridus filius illuſtr. Regis H. 4. Dux Glouc. D. Humfr. Comes Staffordiae, with a Multitude more from all Parts.

And it is obſerved, that the annnall Maſter of this *Gild,* was he that had been Mayor the Year before; who, during his Continuance in that Office, ſate next to the Mayor in all publique Meetings. The Oath of which Maſter I have likewiſe here inſerted.

I ſhall be good and true to the Brethren and Siſtern of the Trinity-Gild, S. Mary, S. John, and S. Katherine of Coventre; and all lawfull points and Ordinances of this place, afore this time ordeyned truly to kepe to my power; and in eſpeciall all the ordinances that been or ſhall be the generall days ordayned, truly kepe and obſerve. Alſo I ſhall truly receive, and true accompt yeild, as well of my receipts, as of all other things that longen to the Maſter of this Gild; and the arrerage of my accompt, if any be, truly pay or I depart from my accompt; and all other things truly doe that longen to the office of the ſaid Maſter; So help me God and all Saints. Alſo I ſhall once before Candlemas nert coming, with 6. or 4. Brethren of this Yeld, overſee all the tenements of the ſame Yeld.

Upon the Survey taken in 26 *H.* 8. it appears, that Mr. *Rob. Glaſmond,* being then Warden of this Colledge of *Babbelake* (for by that Name it was then called) had viii *l. per Ann.* Stipend; and that there were 7 Prieſts more, which had iiii *l.* xiii *s.* iiii *d. per Ann.* a-peice for their Salary. But in 37 *H.* 8. upon the Survey then taken, I find, that the Revenue of all the Lands belonging to the ſaid *Gild* amounted to Cxi *l.* xiii *s.* 8 *d.* out of which *(inter alia)* was then paid 6 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d. per Ann.* to a certain Prieſt called the Warden of the Chappel of *Babbelake:* And to eight other Prieſts celebrating Divine Service there, 37 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d. per Ann.* To the Maſter of a Grammar-School there 6 *l.* 13 *s.* 4 *d. per Ann.* To two Clerks ſinging there 8 *l. per Ann.* To two Boys alſo ſinging there 2 *l. per Ann.* To divers poor Men which had formerly been Brethren of the ſaid *Gild* 10 *l.* in Money according to the antient Uſe. To *Tho. Gregory* Clerk-Controuler of the ſame *Gild,* 6 *l. per Ann.* And every Prieſt having likewiſe a Chamber within the Precinct of the ſame *Babbelake,* worth 4 *s. per Ann.* a-peice.

Bablake
In the Church theye Armes



1 Beauchamp E. of Warwick
2 Ferres E. of Derby
3 Lilling
4 Coker
5
6 Botetier
7
8 Beauchamp empaling Fitzw
9 Catesby empaling Fitzwith
10 Craunford empaling Cafiell
11 Crumwell empaling Beivill

Bond's Almes-Houses.

HERE was moreover within this Place of *Babbelake* an Almes-Houſe founded by one *Thomas Bond* (a rich Merchant of *Coventre)* wherein, at the Time of the ſaid Survey, were ten poor Men and one Woman kept, to pray for the Souls of the ſaid *Tho. Bond*, his Grandfather, Father, and all Chriſtian Souls: All which were at that Time maintained at the Charge of *Tho. Bond*, Grandchild to the ſaid *Thomas*, by whoſe laſt Will the ſaid Almes-Houſe was to have been built, and ſuch Poor maintained, with a Prieſt; and to that End, certain Lands put in Feoffees Hands, of 49*l.* 11*s.* 7*d. per Ann.* Value: Out of which was paid to thoſe poor People every Saturday 6*s.* 8*d.* which amounted to 17*l.* 6*s.* 8*d. per Ann.* To the Prieſt celebrating Divine Service, 13*l.* 6*s.* 8*d. per Ann.* and 20*s.* for a Gown. *In toto* 14*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.*

For 38 Yards of black Cloth, to make Gowns for the ſaid poor Men *per Ann.* 3*l.* 16*s.* 0*d.* In Alms given to the Poor yearly, 13*s.* 4*d.* For 20 Load of Wood yearly for the ſaid poor People 1*l.* 3*s.* 4*d. per Ann.* For the Bayliffs Fee, 2*l. per Ann. In toto* xliii*l.* viii*s.* xi*d. ob.*

But this being diſſolved by Act of Parl. (as all other *Chantryes*, *Gilds*, and the like Fraternities were) in 1 *E.* 6. (I mean what belong'd to the *Gild*) was by the K. Letters Pat. dated 12 *Dec.* 2 *E.* 6. granted unto the Bayliffs and Commonalty of this City, and their Succeſſors, to hold in Burgage by the Service of 1*d. per Ann.*

Touching which Almes-Houſe, I ſhall further adde, in Memorial of the ſaid *Tho. Bond*, and other its Benefactors, the Inſcription upon the Walls thereof.

This Hoſpitall was founded A. D. 1506. by Mr Tho. Bond, Draper, ſometime Mayor and Alderman of this City, for ten men and one woman: who gave certein lands for mayntenance thereof, which his ſon John Bond continued during his life. But Tho. the ſon of John, claimed thoſe lands as his own; whereupon the City ſued him in Chancery, and had a Decree againſt him, which coſt them a great ſum of money for certein lands valued then at 20 l. per Ann. In the ſeventh year of K. James, the ſaid lands were queſtioned as concealed from the Crown: which lands and tenements the City were enforc't againe to purchaſe of the K. to their very great coſt and expences. Notwithſtanding, the Citty have continued the charitable uſes as formerly: And as the lands have been improved, ſo hath the maintenance of the old men been bettered, and each mans place is now worth eleven pounds by the year.

Mr. Sim. Norton, Draper, Mayor and Alderman of this City, An. D. 1641. gave 300 marks for and towards the Mayntenance of one man, and one boy

boy, in this Hospitall of Babbelake, and one man and woman in Gray-Friers-Hospitall: which man and boy are accordingly placed in this House; and the Citty at their own charge makes their Maynteinance equall with the rest of the Hospitall-men and boys.

In the year 1560. this Hospitall for Boys was first erected in the place where now it is, being a House of the Cittyes; and was for some years mainteyned by the Citty, and the charity of well disposed people, of Cittizens and Strangers, till Mr Wheatly in An. 1566. setled some lands towards the Maynteinance thereof; and other Benefactors since have given, in all, with his gift, about 96 l. per Ann. Which being not sufficient to maynteine xxi Boyes, and a Nurse, and place them out Apprentices, the Citty doth make up the rest, being above 40 l. a year, one year with another.

Corpus-Christi-Gild. } In Mill-Lane.

THIS *Gild* was founded in 22 *E.* 3. by *Rob. Chaundos*, *John de Wynwik*, Clerk, *John de Wyndsore*, *John de Weston*, *Tho. Chaloner*, *Will. Prest*, *Henry de Bussebу*, *Nich. le Hunt*, *John Prest*, *Will. de Teynton*, *Gilb. de Pulteney*, *John Russell*, Sen. *Ric. le Gonere*, *John de Busheley*, *Rog. de Tuwe*, *Nich. Floutere*, *Ric. Coupere*, *Peter Percy*, and *Nich. Pake*, in Honour of the Body and Blood of our blessed Saviour, for one Priest to sing Mass daily for the good Estate of the same King *E.* and of the said *Rob. John*, *&c.* above specified, during their Lives in this World, and for their Souls afterwards, as also of all the Faithfull deceased. Unto which, *John Scardeburgh* of *Coventre*, *John Wedon*, and divers others, granted 29 Mess. and a Half, 8 Acres of Land, and 18 *d.* yearly Rent, all lying in *Coventre*, in 15 *R.* 2. The Lands and Tenements belonging whereunto, were, by the Survey taken in 37 *H.* 8. certified to be yearly worth 36 *l.* 10 *s.* 8*d.* Out of which was annually paid to 4 Priests performing Divine Service in the Churches of the Holy *Trinity* and S. *Mich. viz.* to each of them 4 *l.* a peice. *In toto* 16 *l.* To poor People, such as had formerly been of this Fraternity, C *s. per Ann.* And in *obits* yearly, C *s*

Of this *Gild* was Prince *Edw.* a Brother, being so admitted 18 *E.* 4. as he was also of *Trinity-Gild* before mentioned.

Sheremen and Taylors Gild. } adjoining to *Gosford-Gate* in S. *George* his Chappel, as is said.

THERE was yet one *Gild* more, *viz.* of the *Sheremen* and *Taylors*, founded (it seems) in *R.* 2. Time, to the Honour of *Christs Nativity*. Which K. gave them License to purchase Lands in this City, of 8 Marks *per Ann.* Value, to find a Priest to sing Mass every Day, for the Souls of the Founders thereof, and all the Faithfull deceased. Whereunto K. *H.* 6. in 17 of his Reign, added his License for their purchasing of more Lands to the Value of x Marks *per Ann.* and that they should choose 4 Men of their Fraternity, yearly, at the Feast of the *Nativity* of our Lord, to be Masters or Governours of the same; and to have a Common Seal; as also Power to plead in any of the Kings Courts as a Body Corporate.

From which *Gilds* or Fraternities there is no Doubt but divers Companies in the Cities and Corporations through *England*, took their first Patterns for obtaining such Priviledges and Immunities as at this Day they enjoy.

And now that these Citizens had thus associated themselves into the several Fraternities before mentioned, they began to have an Opinion, that if any more such *Gilds* were allowed in this Place, they might receive some Inconvenience thereby: And therefore, in 1 *H.* 5. procured a Declaratory Patent from the K. that thenceforth there should not be any new *Gild* erected. But the young People, *viz.* Journeymen of several Trades, observing what merry Meetings and Feasts their Masters had, by being of those Fraternities, and that they themselves wanted

the

the like Pleaſure; did of their own Accord aſſemble together in ſeveral Places of the City, and eſpecially in S. *George*'s Chappel near *Gosford*-Gate; which occaſioned the Mayor and his Brethren, in 3 *H.* 6. to complain thereof to the King; alledging, that the ſaid Journeymen, in theſe their unlawfull Meetings, called themſelves S. *George* his *Gild*, to the Intent that they might maintain and abet one another in Quarrels; and for their better Conjunction had made Choyſe of a Maſter, with Clerks and Officers, to the great Contempt of the K. Authority, Prejudice of the other *Gilds* (*viz.* the Holy *Trin.* and *Corp. Chriſti*) and Diſturbance of the City. Whereupon the K. directed his Writ to the Mayor and Juſtices, with the Bayliffs of this City, commanding them by Proclamation to prohibite any more ſuch Meetings.

HAVING thus taken Notice of all that is, or hath been within the Walls, which is worth Obſervation, I come to the Suburbs, where I find nothing conſiderable but the Chappel or Hoſpital of *Sponne*, on the Weſt Part of this City. This Hoſpital was founded in *H.* 2. Time by *Hugh Keveliok*, E. of *Cheſter*; who, having a certain Knight of his Houſhold, called *Will. de Auney*, a Leper, gave in pure Alms for the Health of his Soul, and the Souls of his Anceſtors, his Chappel here at *Sponne*, with the Site thereof; and Half a Carucat of Land thereto belonging, for the Maintenance of ſuch Lepers as ſhould happen to be in the Town of *Coventre*. In which Chappel was antiently one Prieſt at leaſt, to celebrate Divine Service for the Living and the Dead. And with him had alſo wont to be certain Brethren and Siſters, together with the Lepers, praying to God for the good Eſtate of all their Benefactors.

But this Hoſpital, upon the Grant of the Mannour of *Coventre* to the Monks, in 34 *H.* 3. by *Rog. de Montalt* and *Cecily* his Wife, was (*inter alia*) reſerved to the ſaid *Roger* and *Cecily*, and their Heirs; which *Cecily* had *Coventre* by Inheritance from thoſe Earls. And in the Releaſe made to the ſaid Monks of the Premiſſes, by her the ſaid *Cecily*, in her Widowhood, is ſaid to have been ſometime belonging to the Abby of *Baſingwerk* in *Flintſh.* But clear it is, that the Monks ſhortly after appropriated it to their own Uſe, though they held it not ſo very long: For I find, that it came at length to the Crown, together with the Mannour of *Cheyleſmore*; and therein continued till 14 *E.* 4. But then did the K. paſs it away to the Canons of *Studley* in this County, and their Succeſſors, by the Name of *Libera Capella S. Mariæ Magd. apud Sponne juxta Coventre*, with all the Lands, Tenements, *&c.* thereto belonging, in pure Alms, to pray for the good Eſtate of him the ſaid K. and of Q. *Eliz.* his Conſort, *Edw.* his eldeſt Son, Pr. of *Wales*, D. of *Cornwall*, *&c.* during their natural Lives, and for their Souls afterwards. As alſo for the Soul of *Ric.* late D. of *York* (the ſaid K. Father) and all his Progenitors.

The Arch-Deaconry of Coventre.

AND now before I leave this City, I may not omit to obſerve, that ſo much of *Warwickſh.* as is within the Dioceſs of *Cov.* and *Lich.* is called the *Arch-deaconry* of *Coventry*, by Reaſon that the Biſhops for a long Time ſeating themſelves in *Staffordſh.* have conſtantly aſſigned ſome eminent and grave Divine to reſide here, to ſuperintend the Clergy of theſe Parts in their Stead; who hath made his Viſitations Annually according to antient Cuſtome for that Purpoſe, and been ſtiled the *Arch-deacon* of *Coventre*. As for the Title of *Arch-deacon*, it is of no leſs Antiquity than the primitive Times of Chriſtianity; the Uſe then being, that the Deacons did elect out of themſelves, one whom they knew to be moſt eminent for his Induſtry, and gave him that Title: Howbeit of late Years, he

he who was more grave and prudent than the reſt, hath commonly been advanced to that Place. But before I proceed to ſpeak of the particular *Arch-deacons* here, it will not be amiſs to ſay ſomething in a more ſpecial Manner of the Office; foraſmuch as what hath appertain'd thereto, is not very commonly known. I ſhall therefore tranſcribe the Subſtance of what I have met with, from a very good Authority and no leſs antient than *H.* 8. Time.

Inſtructions for my Lord Privey-Seall concerning the Biſhop of Lincolne, **and his Archd. touching the Biſhop his demand of** *Preſtations.*

What apperteynith to th' office of an Arch-deacon, and whereupon his revenewſe, and what heretofore hath thereunto appertayned.

Procurations. *Fines of Teſtaments.*
Sinodals. *Vacations of Benefices.*
Peter-pens. *Inſtallations of Abbots.*
Penſions or Indemnities.

PROCURATIONS be dewe for viſitation. Th' arch-deacon is bownde yerely to viſite all his Arch-deaconry thoroweoute; then to enquire of all crimes and miſgovernance of the people, as well the Clergie as the laſee, by Church wardens and other; and to reforme whatſoever they finde otherwiſe then well, other committede haynouſly againſt the Lawes of God, or th' ordinance of the Prince for a quiet Common-wele, diſſonant to Gods lawes, to Mans-lawes, and politique order of the worlde; to reforme the ſame, other by godly perſuaſion and good advice, by commination, or by paynes and penaltyes, according to the humility and umble ſubjection of the offender, and repentans of his offens. For this his viſitation he hath Procurations.

Sinodales.

SINODALLS *be dewe for the ſame kept at Eſter by th' Arch-deacon, or his officers; calling together the Parſons, the Vicars, and Pariſh Prieſts, diligently enquiring if every of the ſame doe and have done their dewties accordingly to the Lawes of God, Lawes of the Prince eſtabliſhed, and th' ordinance of the Churche accuſtomede; and have godely and diligently miniſterede all Sacraments and Sacramentals to their pariſhioners at Eſter then paſt, and ſoe the yere before. For this kinde of Viſitation* Sinodals *be dewe to the Arch-deacon wiche the Biſhope wolde now in any wiſe have, becauſe of a* Decretale *that ſaith,* quod Epiſcopo debentur Sinodalia, *and for that Text. Now wolde the Biſhope turne from his* Peter-pens, *calling them* Preſtations *or* Penſions, *and wolde have them now dewe for* Sinodalls, *wiche the Arch-deacons have had and enjoyed this* 3. 6. 8. *hundrethe yeres, without let, interruption, or contradiction of any Biſhope. My* Sinodals *be not xix l. by yere, and yet muſt I give to my Official* 5 *marks fee yerely, and as much to my Regiſter, and alſo bere their coſts yearly in riding to the ſene,* 4 *or* 5*l. ſo have not I xl. clear for my* Sinodals. *But put the caſe that theſe* Sinodals *were the Biſhops, yet wherefore ſhould I be bounde to gather his* Sinodals; *or why ſhould I give* 20 *nobles fee to my officers to ſerve him, and to be his Collector.* Dicat Apollo.

Peter-pens.

ALL *Arch-deacons of England gathered* Peter-pens *of every Fyer-houſhold within every pariſh one penye, which were granted eight hundred yeres paſt by K.* Hyvo *and aftir confyrmed by* Inas, *then by* Offa Rex Marchiorum, *by* Arnulphus, *and other moe ſo following, and by K.* John *for his time. Aftir ſome antique Authors they were granted for a yerely Preſt, or a perpetuall yerely ſubſidy.* Epiſcopo Romano præſtabantur in ſubſidium, *ſaith divers Authors. Others ſay they were given to a Scole in* Rome, *to the mayntenance of Engliſh Scolars there, as* Fabian *and* Guido, *with other: But now th' Arch-deacons, after thes pens gathered, paid the ſame in part or all to the Collector of* Rome, *ſaving the Arch-deacon of* Lincolne *and* Sarum; *theſe*

payd the pens gathered to the Bishop, the B. payd to the Collector, and had his acquittance by the name of Peter-pens. *Th' Arch-deacons had their acquittance of the B. by the name of* Prestation-*money; so the B. of* Lincolne *payd, but he gathered none: Th' Arch-decon gathered and payd, not to the Collector, but only to the B. Soe finally, seing the B. never gathered* Peter-pens, *and yet payd them to the Collectors every yere, and th' Arch-decons gathered them yerely, and payd none to the Collector, but only to the B. what should the B. his demaunde other be then for* Peter-pens.

To prove that this worde Prestation *is very* Peter-pens, *bit is to manifestly declared in the B. of* Rome *his own lawe, in an Epistle-decretall send* Episcopo Cantuar. & suffraganeis suis. *The B. of* Lincolne, *is one of his Suffragans, and perchance it was ment for him that was then B. of* Lincolne, *if he were as nigh scrapyng as the B. that now ys at this present time.* Textus est in capitulo de Censibus, *in the Decretals,* ea quæ de avaritia verba sunt hæc. Ne gravetis parochias & ecclesia. vestras propter visitationem beati Petris cum fecerit is collectam denariorum, Glossator Bernardus, *one of the B. of* Rome *his Secretaryes, expoundeth* hoc verbum Collectam. Collecta, inquit, est præstatio quædam, quam Anglici solvunt ecclesiæ Romanæ, & debet esse moderata, &c. *Soe the* Prestations *is taken for* Peter-pens *in the B. of* Rome *his own law.*

Pensions or Indemnityes.

BE *these, when a Church is improprede to an Abbeye or College, then the Arch-deacon for ever lesyth his Induction-money; and in recompence of that, he shall have yerely out of the said Benefice soe improperede xii d. or ii s. for an yerely pension, more or lesse, as hit is agreed at the tyme of the impropriation. And this money is callid* Pensions, *or* Indemnityes: *And like as the Arch-decon* conservatur indempnis, *by this his yerely pension payd in the liew of the Induction, even soe* Episcopus conservatur indempnis, *and hath a like* Pension *for his indemnitye in the liew of his Institution, which he likewise calleth his* Pension.

The first that I meet with, who was honoured with this Office of *Arch-deacon,* is *Ric. Peche,* Son of *Rob. Peche,* B. of *Coventre,* in *H.* 1. Time, and advanc'd to be *Arch-deacon* by his said Father: Which *Ric.* afterwards became B. also of *Cov.* in *H.* 2. Time, upon the Decease of *Walt. Durdent*; but being a very devout Man, and Founder of the Monastery of S. *Thomas* near *Stafford,* when he grew aged he left his Bishoprick, and took upon him the Habit of a *Canon-Regular* in that Religious House, where he departed this Life, and was buryed.

The next, though not his immediate Successor that I find, was a Man, who became afterwards very eminent, *viz. Will. de Kilkenny,* being afterwards for a Time Chancelour of *England,* and also B. of *Ely. Homo egregiâ corporis formâ præditus; facundus, prudens, & legum municipalium admodum peritus,* saith *Godwyn.* He dyed on the Feast-Day of S. *Mathew* the Apostle, *An.* 1256. 4 *H.* 3. being then in Spain Embassadour; but his Heart he appointed to be buryed in *Ely.*

His immediate Successor, as I believe, for he was *Arch-deacon* in 3 *Joh.* was a Man extraordinary famous for his Learning, and a great Divine, whose Memory is yet very pretious in our Universities, *viz. Alexander de Hales*; a Catalogue of whose learned Works are to be seen *in Balæus de Script. Britannicis.*

This *Alex.* in his Age became a Frier at the *Corde-liers* in Paris; where, departing this Life, he was buryed near the Steps ascending to the Quire; and hath over his Grave a Monument of black Marble, about 2 Foot in Height from the Ground, with this Inscription engraven upon it.

R. P.
ALEXANDRI DE ALES,
Doctoris irrefragabilis, quondam
Sanctorum Thomæ Aquinatis, &
Bona-

Bonaventuræ preceptoris Epitaphium.

Clauditur hoc ſaxo famam ſortitus abundè
Gloria Doctorum, decus & flos Philoſophorum,
Auctor Scriptorum vir Alexander variorum,
Norma modernorum: fons veri, lux aliorum,
Inclitus Anglorum fuit Archilevita; ſed horum
Spretor cunctorum frater collega Minorum
Factus egenorum, ſit Doctor primus eorum.
Obiit A. D. 1245. *Calend Septembris* 12.
Si quis honos meritis, ſi quis virtute coluntur,
Hunc animo præfer, hunc venerare Patrem.

As for his Succeſſors, I dare not undertake to exhibit a perfect Catalogue of them: Yet of ſuch for whom any good Authority hath appeared to me, I have added their Names.

Patroni.	Archidiac. Coventriæ.
	Hugo de Mariſco, Cler. 5 *Id Julii,* 1349.
	Will. Croſſe, 3 *Non. Oct.* 1351.
	Joh. de Pipe, Pbr. 11 *Cal. Oct.* 1358.
	Will. Lambe, Pbr. poſt reſign. Will. Bermyngham, 1 *Dec.* 1369.
	Rob. Stretton, 5 *Cal. Jan.* 1369.
	Rob. de Oxton, Cler. 20 *Junii,* 1408.
	Rob. Eſple, Art. Magr. poſt mortem Joh. Heyworth, 22 *Maii,* 1433.
	Rog. Wall. Cler. penult. Junii, 1442.
	Joh. Blythe, ſcolar. Univerſit Pariſ. per reſign. Rad. Colingwood, 2 *Oct.* 1510.
Rob. Co. Leic. hac vice patronus.	*Will. James, S. Theol. Profeſſor, poſt mortem Tho. Lewes,* 27 *Aug.* 1577.
Will. Awbrey, L. Dr. & Arth. Aly, in Art. Magr. hac vice.	*Will. Hinton, S. Theol. Bac.* 4 *Nov.* 1584.
Epiſc. Cov. & Lich.	*Sam. Brooke, S. Theol. Profeſſor,* 13 *Maii,* 1635.
	Rad Brownrigge, S. Theol. Profeſſor, 29 *Sept.* 1631.

Upon the Survey [k] made in 26 *H.* 8. this Dignity was certified to be worth xlv. *l.* ix *s.* *per Ann. viz.* in *Penſions, Procurations,* and *Sinodals.*

Out of the Deanry of { *Coventre,* 9 *l.* 12 *s.* 4 *d.* / *Marton,* 10 *l.* 11 *s.* 0 *d.* / *Stonley,* 11 *l.* 00 *s.* 2 *d.* / *Arden,* 14 *l.* 5 *s.* 6 *d.* } *per Ann.*

And as the ſeveral Particulars, whereof I have already ſpoke, have added no ſmall Honour to this City, ſo is it alſo famous for having been the Birth-Place to one of our moſt eminent Hiſtorians; of whom I ſhall here repeat what *Balæus* ſpeaketh.

Gualterus Coventrienſis *immortali vir dignus memoriâ, in eadem celebri Warwicenſis comitatus urbe, & natus, & educatus, ab honeſtis illic civibus originem duxit. Operam bonis literis ſedulam admodum Oxonii impendebat, ubi gratiſſimum fuit optimarum diſciplinarum emporium. Illuſtria ejus acta accuratè, ſed ſparſim, à diligentiſſimo* Lelando, *chartis præcipue hiſtoricis, commendata ſunt. Eo etenim teſte, hiſtoriam eſt magno aggreſſus animo, quam etiam inchoatam ab origine Britannorum, ad ſua tempora, Ann. viz. Dom.* 1226. *majoribus animis deduxit. Secutus eſt autem hos potiſſimùm authores Anglos,* Galfridum Monumetenſem, Rog. Hovedenum, & Henr. Huntingdonium; *ita tamen ut multa addiderit non ſine fide, quæ nuſpiam apud illos leguntur. Unum certè defuit homini, alios qui claro: nam quamquam fide, & lucido ordine nuſquam, facundiâ tamen ſæpiuſcuèl deſtitutus erat. Quod non authoris, ſed ætatis potius vitium fuit. Unde compoſuit* Gualterus.

Chron. Britann. Lib. 1.
Anglo-Sax. Chron. Lib. 1.
Annales Angl. Lib. 1.

Et alia quædam edidit, ut ex honeſtis atque Chriſtianis ſtudiis, apud poſteritatem ſemper ejus viveret nomen. Vixit varia componens & ſcribens, regnantibus Joanne & Henrico *tertio illius filio, Anglorum regibus.*

FINIS

Remaventure præceptoris

Epitaphium.

Clauditur hoc Fano Laurus Fortuna decusq;
Clerici Doctorum, decus & Flos, Publiq-

phorus.

Doctor Scriptorum, nec dicendus ruricolarum,
Verum medicorum, Jonicum, hoc dicorum,
Lectius Anglorum Patri Arthuriano, Jed

berum

Spreter cunctorum Fratre collega Minorum
Fratres equorum, fit Doctor primus eorum.

Obiit A. D. 1245. Cuius Septem-

bris 12.

Si quis bonæ mentis, si quis auriate co-

lentur.

Hinc omnia Pandite, hinc carmina.

Patronus.

As for his Successors, I dare not undertake to exhibit a perfect Catalogue of them: Yet of such for whom any good Authority hath appeared to me, I have added their Names.

Patroni.	Archidiac. Coventriæ.
	Hugo de Morvile, Cler. 5 Ja-
	nuar. 1349.
	Will. Croft, 3 Nov. Ord. 1351.
	Rob. de Pipe, Presb. 11 Cal. Oct.
	1358.
	Will. Lemyle, Presb. Prof. Re-
	gens. Will. Berningham, 4 Dec.
	1369.
	Rob. Stretton, 5 Cal. Jan.
	1369.
	Rob. de Orton, Cler. 20 Junii,
	1406.
	Rob. Elphe, Art. Magr. post
	mortem Rob. Heywerth, 22
	Maii, 1433.
	Reg. Hall. Cler. Presb. Junii,
	1442.
	Rob. Blyth, Presb. Univers.
	Paris. per resign. Rad. Colling-
	wood, 2 Oct. 1510.
Rad. Cr. Univ. Dec.	Will. Farmer, S. Theol. Profess. post mortem Tho. Larum, 29 Aug. 1517.
Will. Austyn, L. Th. & Archid. Magr.	Will. Britten, S. Theol. Bac. 4 Nov. 1538.
Sam. Brooke, S. Theol. Prof.	13 Maii, 1832.
Rad Brown, S. Theol. Prof.	Regius, 29 Sept. 1832.

Upon the Survey made in 26 H. 8. this Dignity was certified to be worth xiv l. ix s. per Ann. cis. in Procurations, and Synods.

Out of the Deanry of

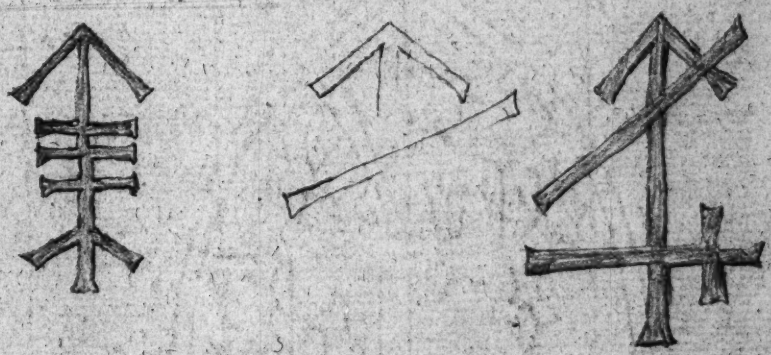
And as the several Particulars, whereof I have already spoke, have added no small Honour to this City, so it is also famous for having been the Birth-Place to one of our most eminent Historians, of whom I shall here repeat what Baleus speaketh.

Guaterus Coventrienſis Immortali ingenii memoria, vir eadem cognitu Mirandus cuncta comitante urbe, & natus, & educatus, ab pueritiæ illic cruditus ætatem duxit. Operam bonæ literis fedulam adhibuit Oxonii simpondebat, ubi gravissimum sui optimarum disciplinarum emporium. Illuc is ejus ætate accurrit, sed ipsum, a diligentissimo Leilando, observii præceptore plurimis, commendatur sum. Eo etenim tepore, plurimo ea magno aggressus animo, quam etiam inchoatam ab origine Britannorum, ad sua tempora. Anno circ. Dom. 1220. majoribus nimis deduxit. Securus ejt autem hos posthumum autorem sugeles, Galfridum Monumetensem, Rog. Hovedenum, & Henricum Huntingdonium; ita tamen ut multa ea didicerit non fine fide, quæ multipliciter aliorum legerunt. Ulnum certe defuit omnium, alios qui citato: nam quamplurimi fide, & lucido ordine multorum, facundia tamen reprehensi desiderantur erat. Quod non autoris, sed ætatis potius vitium fuit. Unde complebit Gualterus.

Chron. Britann: Lib. 1.
Anglo-Sax. Chron. Lib. 1.
Annales Angl. Lib. 1.

Et alia quædam edidit, ut ex bonitate ingenii Chronicum Fundi, apud posteritatem semper vivere nouit. Post vita conjugem & Heredes, regnantibus Joanne & Henrico filiis, vitæ functus Kalendarum

The Mottos of the Bells in St Michaels Steeple in Coventry
and their weight Harl Mss. 6030.



Hunter
Gibbons
W. Leicester